賭博覇王伝 零 ZERO ギャンブル鬼

福本伸行

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賭博覇王伝 零 ZERO ギャンブル鬼

金どころか
命だって投げ出す純粋さ…！
それがギャンブラー
という大馬鹿者！

ZERO

KOUSHUU FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

福本伸行作品

絶賛好評発売中!

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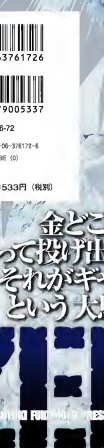

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KC MAGAZINE DELUXE
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ZERO
NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

賭博覇王伝ゼロ

零

ギャン鬼編

GYANKI

2

福本伸行

NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

目次

第8話 魔法 3
第9話 信頼 23
第10話 決着 43
第11話 前進 65
第12話 開設 87
第13話 私刑 107
第14話 純粋 127
第15話 定石 148
第16話 迂闊 171

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2

WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT...?

IF I CAST MY SPELL ON YOU...?

A SPELL THAT CAN PREVENT MY PUTT FROM GOING IN!?
WHAT!?
I DON'T EVEN...
KYOU-SUKE!
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT!?
W-WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE HE JUST SAID
THAT HE'D CAST A MAGIC SPELL ON ME!

ざわ・・
A MAGIC SPELL THAT CAN PREVENT MY PUTT FROM GOING IN!
WHAAAA?
A SPELL THAT CAN PREVENT...
THE BALL FROM GOING IN...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
ざわ・・
ざわ・・

HUH?
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, SHALL WE BET ON IT?

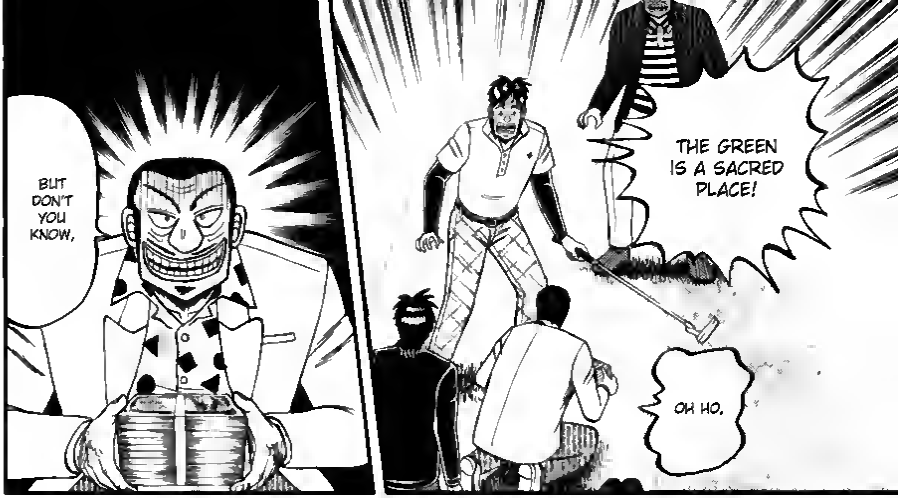
BUT WHY DON'T THE TWO OF US HAVE A SEPARATE BET AS WELL?
I KNOW THAT WE'RE ALREADY PLAYING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE OLD FOLKS' HOMES,
SURE THING! JUST WAIT A SEC!
SUE-ZAKI!
OF COURSE I MYSELF DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY ON ME AT THE MOMENT.
WHAT!?

10 MILLION!

AHHHH!
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
IS... IS THIS.
THE MAGIC SPELL... YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT...?
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS MONEY IS THE SPELL!?

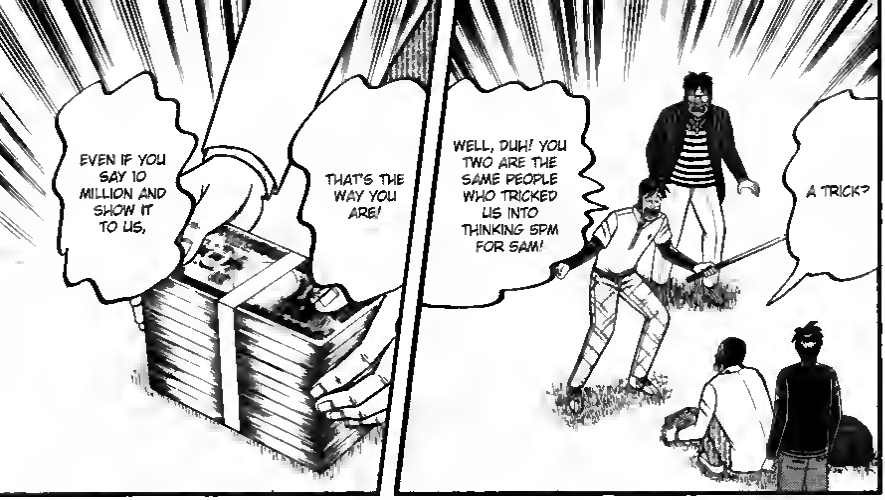
YOU ..
WHA!
YES.
THAT I'LL SCREW UP ON MY PUTT!?
Y-YOU THINK THAT IF THIS MUCH MONEY IS ON THE LINE,
YOU REALLY THINK,
HMM...
AND MISS ALL ON MY OWN, IS THAT IT!?
THAT I'LL CRUMBLE UNDER THE PRESSURE
IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH!
BUT...
NO, THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT I'M PLANNING ON,

DON'T YOU DARE UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
W-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
NO, WHAT DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* DOING!? GET YOUR FILTHY MONEY OFF OF THE GREEN!


BUT DON'T YOU KNOW,
THE GREEN IS A SACRED PLACE!
OH HO.

MONEY IS SACRED!

I BET THAT STACK OF MONEY YOU'RE HOLDING,
YOU CON-ARTISTS!
CUT THE CRAP,
AFTER ALL, THERE ARE FEW THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT PEOPLE VALUE AND BELIEVE IN MORE THAN THE POWER OF MONEY...!
WHA?
IT'S PROBABLY FAKE OR SOMETHING!
IS ANOTHER TRICK!


EVEN IF YOU SAY 10 MILLION AND SHOW IT TO US,
THAT'S THE WAY YOU ARE!
WELL, DUH! YOU TWO ARE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO TRICKED US INTO THINKING 5PM FOR 5AM!
A TRICK?

HA HA HA!
OR TRY TO GET OUT OF PAYING ALTOGETHER WITH SOME OTHER EXCUSE!
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE YOU'LL END UP SAYING WE WON 10 MILLION LIRAS, WONS,
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU'D ACTUALLY PAY US THAT SAME STACK OF MONEY!

OF COURSE
AND ALL THE BILLS I HAVE HERE ARE REAL JAPANESE YEN!
I'LL GLADLY HAND OVER THIS STACK OF MONEY IF YOU ACCEPT THE BET,
BUT THIS TIME, I SWEAR THERE'LL BE NO STUPID TRICKS!
I SEE, I SEE CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR DOUBTING US,

YOU'LL ONLY GET THIS IF YOU ACTUALLY WIN...!
SO YOU SEE, IT'S SIMPLE AS THAT! NO FISHY STUFF AND NO STRINGS ATTACHED, I SWEAR!
WE'D NEVER BREAK A PROMISE WHEN IT COMES TO GAMBLING.
DEPENDING ON THE TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE,
WE'RE READY TO RISK BOTH MONEY AND OUR LIVES AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE...!

AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE KIND OF FOOLS WE GAMBLERS ARE!
GUH!
S-SO.. YOU'RE WILLING TO BET ALL 10 MILLION YEN, RIGHT FROM YOUR POCKET,
ALL BECAUSE ZERO SAID SO!?
'COURSE'
ZERO MAY BE,
A COMPLETE NOVICE AT GOLF,
BUT YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO IMAGINE THE KINDS OF DANGEROUS GAMBLES,
THAT HE HAD TO PLAY THROUGH COUNTLESS OF TIMES!

HE'S A GENIUS THROUGH AND THROUGH!
A TRUE GAMBLING KING!
AND IF ZERO SAYS YOU'LL MISS ON YOUR NEXT PUTT,
THEN THAT'S HOW IT'LL BE!
THERE'S NO DOUBTING IT!
SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO HESITATE!

NGHH!
I TRUST IN ZERO COMPLETELY!
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
……
JUST-
GIVE ME A MOMENT!
DAD…
KYOU-SUKE..

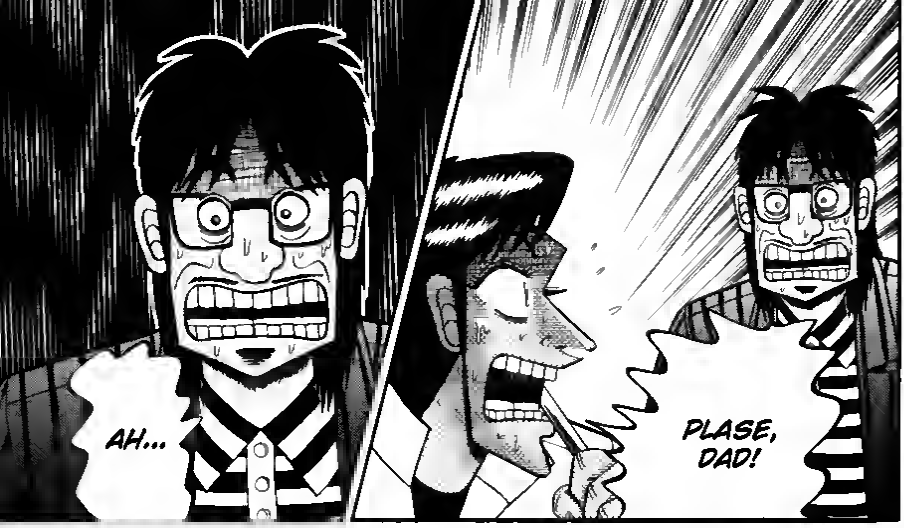
THINK...!
THINK,
I NEED SOME TIME TO THINK,
JUST HOLD ON!
HCP
ANALYZE!
ANALYZE!
ANALYZE!
ANALYZE!
THINK,
AND ANALYZE!

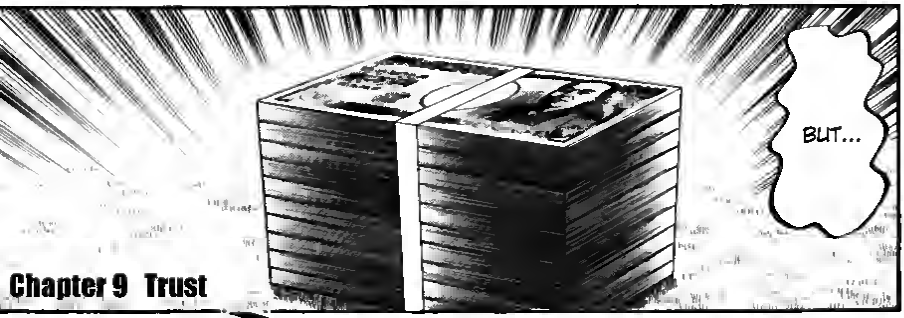
I'VE GOT TO SIT DOWN AND CARE-FULLY ANALYZE,
EVERY-THING THERE IS TO ANALYZE ABOUT THESE NEXT 3 METERS!
KYOU-SUKE..
DAD,
DON'T YOU WANT TO GET BACK AT THESE CHEATING SCUM...?

DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THOSE GAMBLING-ADDICTS,
HM?
CRY AND REGRET FACING US...!?
ACCEPT THE BET, DAD!
YOU MEAN-
I CAN GET IT IN FOR SURE!
THERE'S STILL A LITTLE BIT TO GO BEFORE THE HOLE,
BUT IT'S STRAIGHT AHEAD!
WHICH I'LL OBVIOUSLY END UP WINNING!
AND ONCE I DO, IT'LL BE THE PLAYOFF ROUND,
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LOSE THIS...!

I'LL CRUSH THEM!

I'LL CRUSH THEM AND THEIR DELUDED ARROGANCE!





Chapter 9 Trust

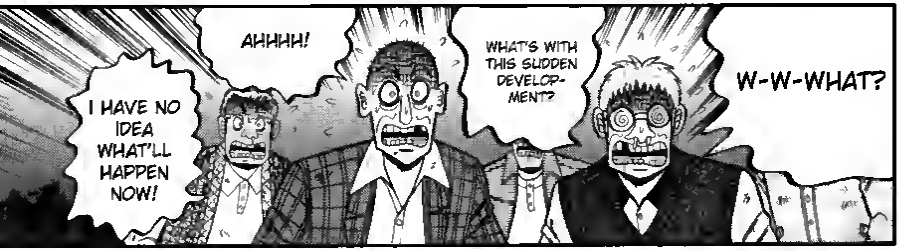
FOR THINKING THAT I'LL JUST CRUMBLE UNDER PRESSURE WHEN THE STAKES ARE HIGH!
I WANT TO SHOW JUST HOW WRONG HE IS,
I HAVE TO GET BACK AT HIM!
10 MILLION YEN IS JUST...

I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE INSULTED IN MY LIFE!
THAT'S WHAT HE JUST SAID TO MY FACE!
WE HAVE TO TEACH BOTH OF THEM A LESSON!
YOU BELIEVE THAT I'LL GROW UP TO BE A FUTURE MASTERS CHAMPION, DON'T YOU!?
DAD!

N-NO...
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I'LL MISS THIS EASY SHOT!?
OR DO YOU BELIVE WHAT HE SAYS!?
NO! NO! NO!
NO!
THAT I'LL JUST FOLD UNDER PRESSURE!?
I KNOW YOU CAN MAKE THIS SHOT!
I KNOW!
THE SON I KNOW WOULD NEVER MISS!
THAT'S A FACT!
OF COURSE YOU CAN DO IT!

I'M SORRY, SON!
SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH ME!
IF EVEN THAT CON-ARTIST CAN COMPLETELY TRUST IN SOME SNOT-NOSED GAMBLER,
THEN HOW COULD I NOT GIVE YOU MY ABSOLUTE TRUST AS WELL!?
WE ACCEPT!

おおお
WE'LL BE PLAYING FOR 10 MILLION YEN!
ざわ‥


I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'LL HAPPEN NOW!
AHHHH!
WHAT'S WITH THIS SUDDEN DEVELOP-MENT?
W-W-WHAT?

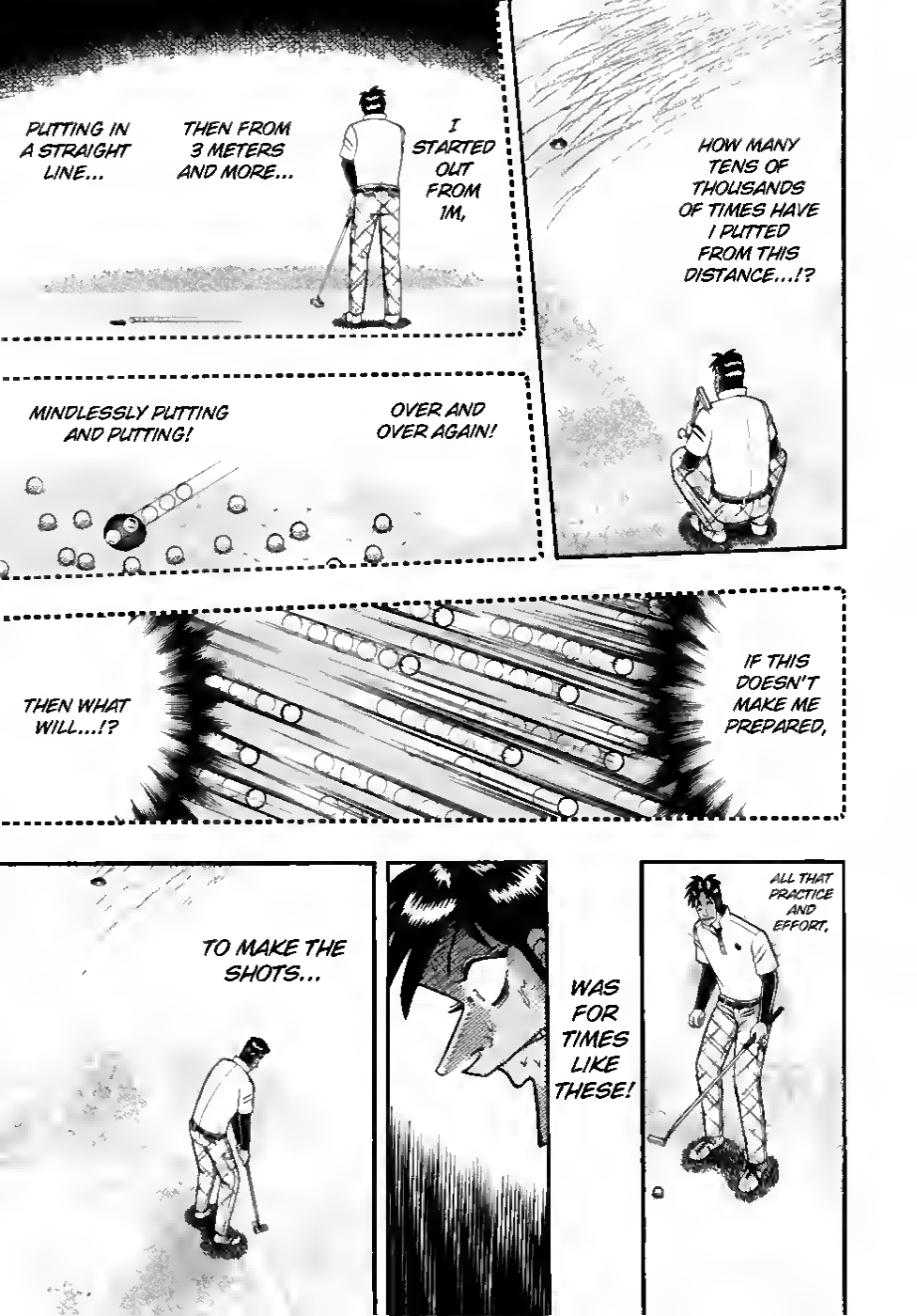
DAD...

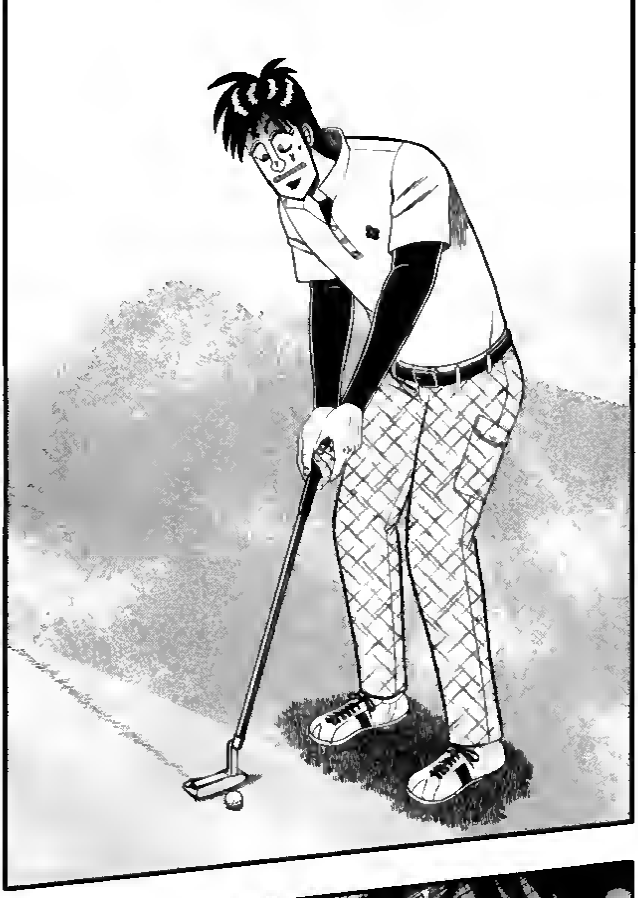
WIPE IT FOR ME, PLEASE.
G-GOT IT!
GOTTA MAKE SURE,
THE BALL IS COMPLETELY CLEAN...!
DAD!
DAD!
DAD!

I'LL BE SURE TO GET IT IN!
THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN ME!
TO THANK YOU FOR STICKING BY ME AND MY DREAM ALL THESE YEARS!
I'LL MAKE SURE THIS NEXT PUTT GOES IN,

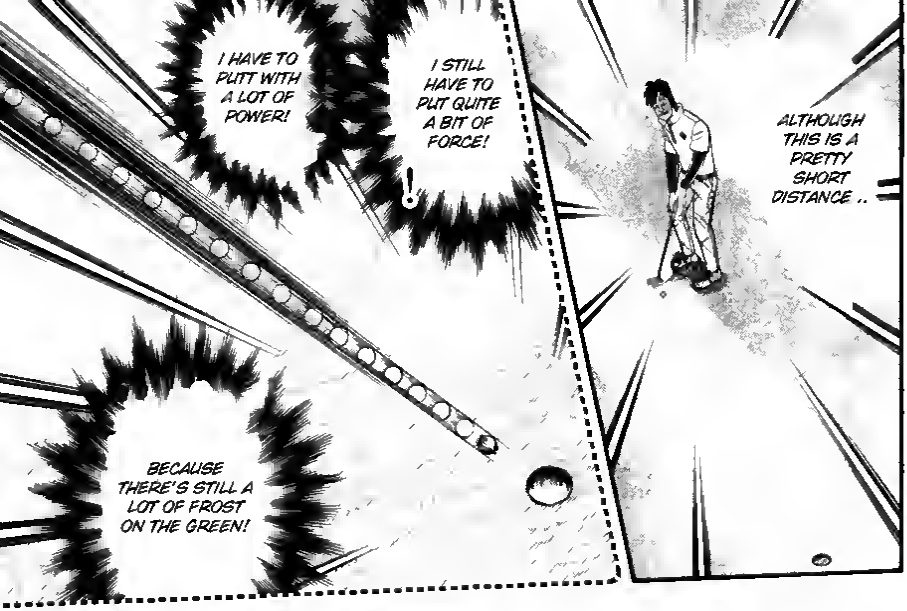
NO FISHY STUFF AND NO STRINGS ATTACHED, I SWEAR!
WE'D NEVER BREAK A PROMISE WHEN IT COMES TO GAMBLING.
DEPENDING ON THE TIME AND CIRCUM-STANCE,
WE'RE READY TO RISK BOTH MONEY AND OUR LIVES AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE...!
THAT'S JUST HOW PREPARED WE ARE!

I'M FAR MORE PREPARED THAN ANY OF YOU LOT!
HMPH!
.....
I'M MUCH MORE PREPARED!
WHEN IT COMES TO GOLF,

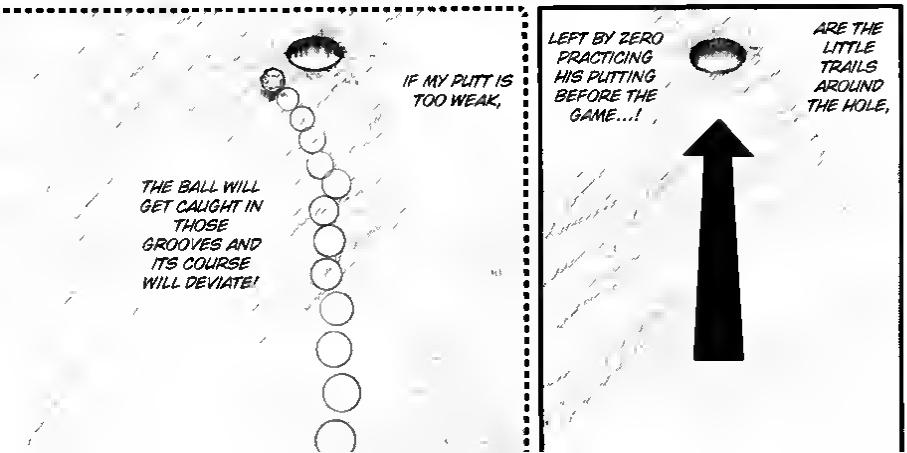

PUTTING IN A STRAIGHT LINE...
THEN FROM 3 METERS AND MORE...
I STARTED OUT FROM 1M,
HOW MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TIMES HAVE I PUTTED FROM THIS DISTANCE...!?
MINDLESSLY PUTTING AND PUTTING!
OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
THEN WHAT WILL...!?
IF THIS DOESN'T MAKE ME PREPARED,
TO MAKE THE SHOTS...
WAS FOR TIMES LIKE THESE!
ALL THAT PRACTICE AND EFFORT,



THAT I CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!


I HAVE TO PUTT WITH A LOT OF POWER!
I STILL HAVE TO PUT QUITE A BIT OF FORCE!
!
ALTHOUGH THIS IS A PRETTY SHORT DISTANCE ..
BECAUSE THERE'S STILL A LOT OF FROST ON THE GREEN!

THE THING I REALLY HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR ..
TO JUST HIT THE OUTER EDGE AND GO IN!
THIS PUT HAS TO BE STRONG ENOUGH,


IF MY PUTT IS TOO WEAK,
THE BALL WILL GET CAUGHT IN THOSE GROOVES AND ITS COURSE WILL DEVIATE!
LEFT BY ZERO PRACTICING HIS PUTTING BEFORE THE GAME...!
ARE THE LITTLE TRAILS AROUND THE HOLE,

HARDER! HARDER! HARDER!
SO I HAVE TO PUTT HARDER!
THAT'LL BE NO GOOD!
HCP

A PUTT TO CRUSH HIS TRACKS!
A STRONG PUTT THAT CAN POWER THROUGH THE GROOVES!

THAT'S STILL TOO WEAK!
1M... NO, 1.3M...!
NO,
ENOUGH POWER TO REACH 80CM BEHIND THE HOLE...

AGH!
NGHHH!
AHH!
ACK!
GAH!
KILL!
!!
NGH...
パ!!
A PUTT THAT CAN KILL!
ぶっ殺す

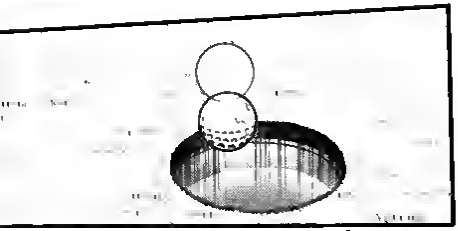
KILL!
AHH!

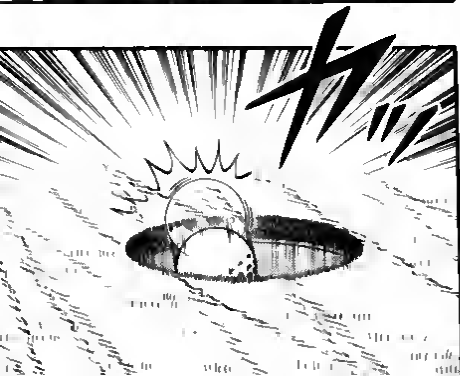
YES!
ミャアー
I HIT IT WITH JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF POWER!
COME ON...!
AHHHHHHH!
OHHHH!
UGH!
COME ON! COME ON, COME ONNNN!
COME ON!

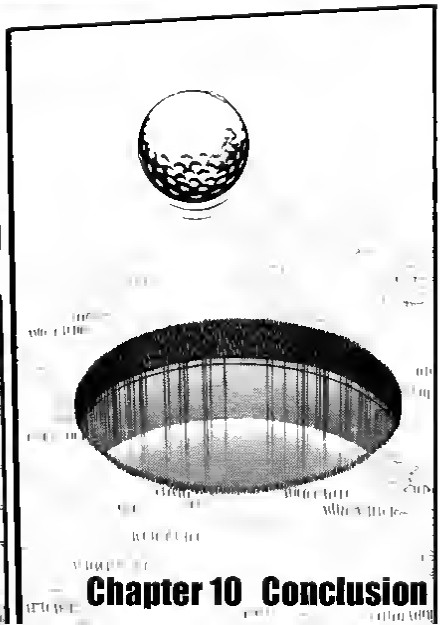
ア ア ア
NGHH...!
AH!
KYOU-SUKE...
ALTHOUGH THINGS DIDN'T ALL QUITE GO YOUR WAY DURING OUR MATCH,
YOU'RE AN INCREDIBLE GOLFER.
YOUR SWINGS WERE ALL PERFECT.

COMPOSURE, AND STRONG WILL.
YOUR SHEER SKILL.
EVEN YOUR PUTT JUST NOW WAS PERFECT AS WELL!
ARE WORTHY OF RESPECT!
AGHHHHH!
IT'S GONNA GO IN!
OHHHHH!
DESPITE ALL YOUR SKILL AND EFFORTS,
YES!
IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR THE CENTER OF THE HOLE!

KYOUSUKE, I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT YOU'LL LOSE HERE AND NOW...!
YOUR LOSS IS INEVITABLE!







Chapter 10 Conclusion

I DID IT!
OHHHHH!
WELL!?
HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW!?
I JUST WON, YOU KNOW?
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE BALL GO IN?
NOOO!
WELL, ZERO!?

WE STILL HAVE THE PLAYOFF ROUND TO PLAY BUT ..
I SUPPOSE TECHNI-CALLY
I THINK YOU AND I BOTH KNOW,
MY BAD, MY BAD. I GUESS I GOT A LITTLE OVER-EXCITED.

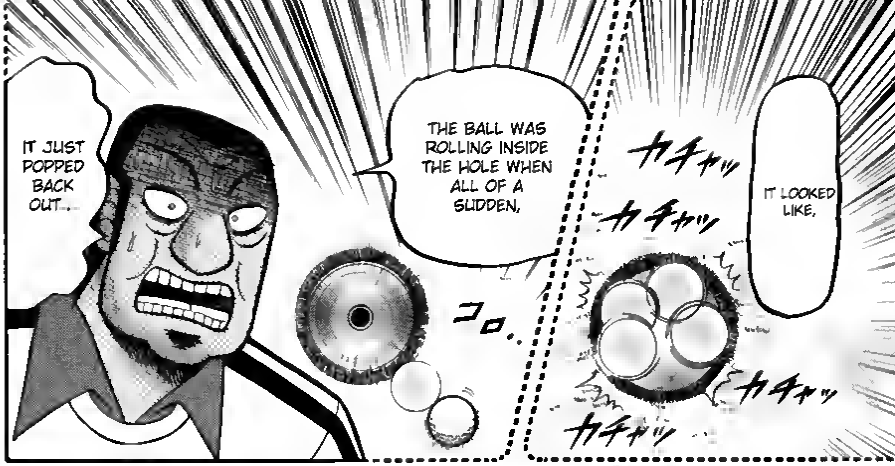
HA HA HA

NOT QUITE
WHO'S GOING TO WIN THAT ONE!

I'M AFRAID TO SAY,
THAT THERE'LL BE NO PLAYOFF ROUND...!
WHA?
ARE YOU GIVING UP OR SOMETHING THEN!?
AGHHH!
KYOUSUKE!
WHAT, DAD?
LOOK!

AHHH!
W-WHA!?
HOW!?

HCP
BUT IT WENT IN JUST A SECOND AGO!
KYOU-SUKE...
THIS IS IMPOS-SIBLE!
MR. SAITOU!
HCP
IT...
JUST WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO THE BALL WHILE I TURNED AROUND!?

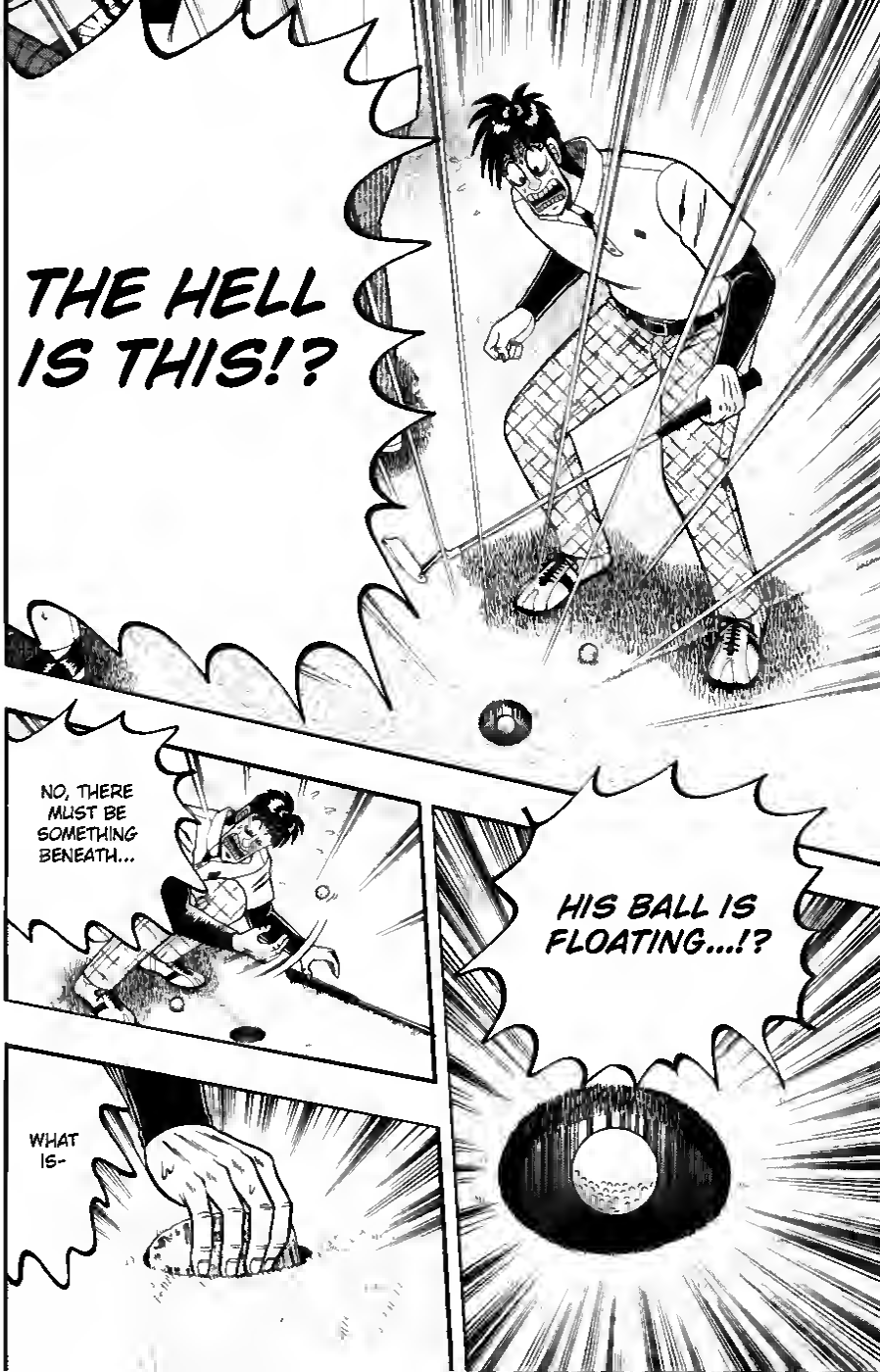

IT JUST POPPED BACK OUT...
THE BALL WAS ROLLING INSIDE THE HOLE WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN,
IT LOOKED LIKE,
コロ..
カチャッ
カチャッ
カチャッ
カチャッ

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, ZERO!
HOW IS THAT EVEN P-
WHA?
ALRIGHT!

WITH THAT MISTAKE JUST NOW, EVEN IF HE GETS THE BALL IN ON THE NEXT TURN,
IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE HIS 5TH SWING!
MEANWHILE, ALL ZERO HAS TO DO IS PUTT THE BALL A FEW CENTIMETERS AND...
HE'LL WIN!
HE'LL WIN WITH 4 SWINGS!
HAHA!
C'MON!
ZERO!

ZERO SCORES A BOGEY BY FINISHING IN 4 SWINGS
HE DID IT!
GUH!
YOU WON!
YOU WON!

HUH?
THIS MATCH ENDS IN OUR COMPLETE VICTORY!
OO
AHH!
WAIT!


THE HELL IS THIS!?
NO, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING BENEATH...
HIS BALL IS FLOATING...!?
WHAT IS-

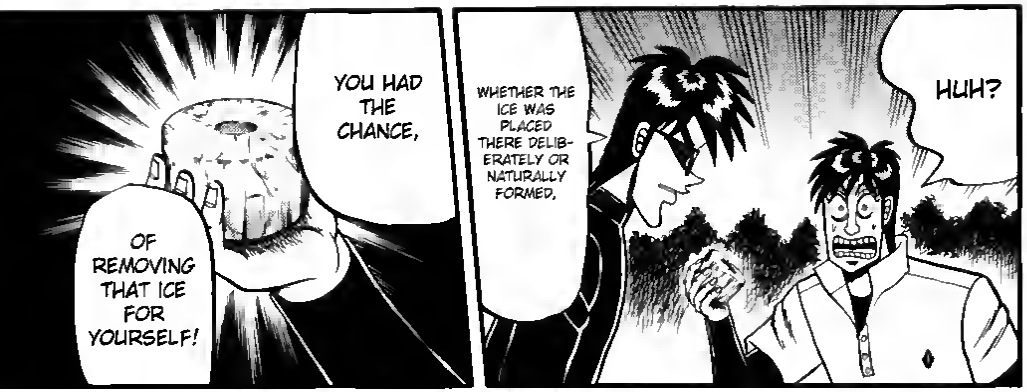
-THIS!?
わっ..
AHH!
WHAT IS IT, KYOUSUKE!?

IT'S ICE!

WHAT?
ICE...?
HCP

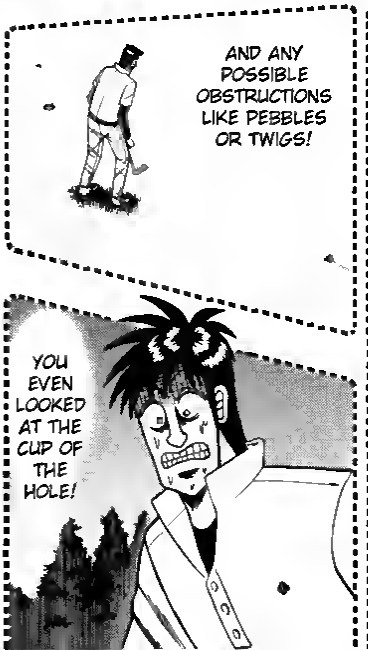
CUT THE BAD JOKES!
WINTER MORNINGS ON GOLF COURSES CAN SURE BE COLD, EH?
SO THAT'S WHY YOUR BALL CAME OUT OF THE HOLE...!
OH, I SEE NOW!

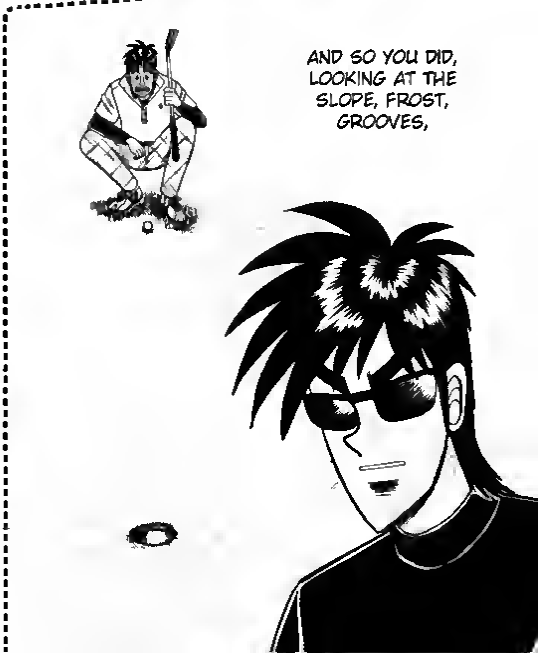
YOU HAD A CHANCE.
ARE YOU GOING TO ALSO PLAY DUMB BY PRETENDING THIS ICE WAS NATURALLY FORMED FROM THE WEATHER!?
ZERO!
THIS IS CLEARLY JUST A NATURAL RESULT FROM THE WEATH-
SINCE WHEN WAS I JOKING?


YOU HAD THE CHANCE,
OF REMOVING THAT ICE FOR YOURSELF!
WHETHER THE ICE WAS PLACED THERE DELIB-ERATELY OR NATURALLY FORMED,
HUH?

RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
YOU TOOK YOUR TIME AND ANALYZED THE 3 METERS OF THE GREEN,
BEFORE YOUR LAST PUTT,
AH!

IT'S ONLY OBVIOUS THAT ONE SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL THE FACTORS!
IT WAS A PUTT WITH 10 MILLION YEN ON THE LINE.

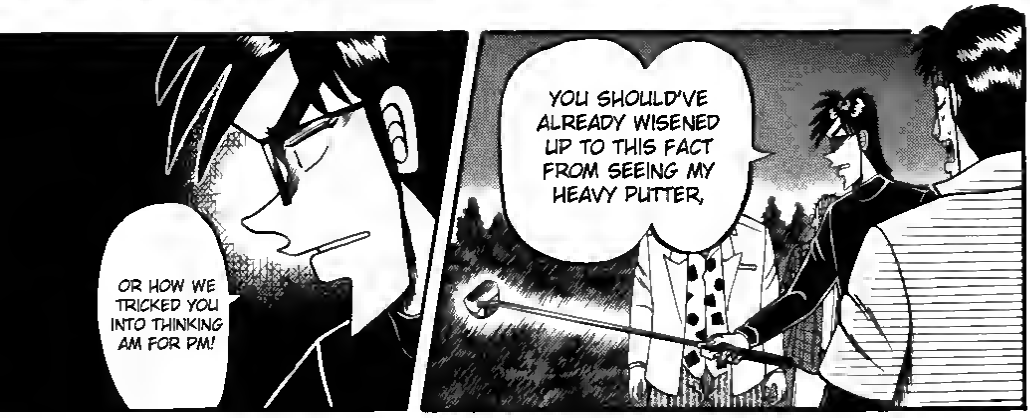

AND ANY POSSIBLE OBSTRUCTIONS LIKE PEBBLES OR TWIGS!
YOU EVEN LOOKED AT THE CUP OF THE HOLE!


AND SO YOU DID, LOOKING AT THE SLOPE, FROST, GROOVES,

AND AT LONG LAST, YOU CONCLUDED IT ALL LOOKED FINE!
YOU LOOKED FOR ANY DENTS OR CRACKS ALONG THE HOLE'S EDGES,
HOWEVER YOU FORGOT TO EXAMINE ONE PLACE.
. . . . . .
THAT YOU FORGOT TO LOOK AT THE HOLE ITSELF!
YOU WERE SO FOCUSED ON EVERYTHING *AROUND* THE HOLE,
THE HOLE!

THAT MISTAKE,
WAS MUCH TOO CARE-LESS OF YOU!
AHH!
YESTERDAY WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER EVEN HELD A GOLF CLUB
NEED I REMIND YOU AGAIN THAT I'M A COMPLETE BEGINNER?

AND FOR A COMPLETE BEGINNER LIKE ME TO BEAT SOMEONE OF YOUR LEVEL,
I WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE,
BUT TO USE UNCONVENTIONAL TACTICS,
TO CATCH YOU OFF GUARD!


YOU SHOULD'VE ALREADY WISENED UP TO THIS FACT FROM SEEING MY HEAVY PUTTER,
OR HOW WE TRICKED YOU INTO THINKING AM FOR PM!

I BELIEVE I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU MORE THAN ENOUGH WARNINGS TO BE ON GUARD FOR SUCH TRICKS,
AND YET,
YOU ENDED UP LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN,
ONCE AGAIN!

SUCH MISTAKES ARE FATAL!
HAD YOU BEEN PLAYING THE TYPE OF GAMES I'M USED TO PLAYING,
YOU'D HAVE LOST YOUR LIFE LONG AGO!

IS THE FACT THAT YOU FAILED TO TAKE HEED OF IT, WHICH MEANS IT'S YOUR LOSS...!
THIS IS THE HARSH REALITY,
WHAT MATTERS
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW THIS BLOCK OF ICE GOT HERE.
THAT'S WHY,
AH...
IF YOU STILL OBJECT,
THAT WE GAMBLERS LIVE IN...!
JUST HOW EXACTLY SHOULD I WIN...?
THEN LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING

JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS A "REAL MATCH" IN YOUR OPINION?
AHHH!

Just what exactly is a "real match" in your opinion?

THE HELL ARE YOU LUNATICS TALKIN' ABOUT!?
THERE'S NO WAY I'D ALLOW YOUR RETARDED BLOCK OF ICE!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
WHAT?
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG
DAD..
YOUR ILLEGAL CHEATING SHOULD MAKE THIS OUR VICTORY BY DEFAULT!
YOU CON-ARTISTS!
IT'S BLA-TANTLY CHEATING,
IN FACT,
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL STAND FOR IT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
NO...
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT THE RULEBOOKS CLEARLY STATE THE HOLE HAS TO HAVE A MINIMAL DEPTH OF 4 INCHES...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DAD... PLEASE PAY THE MONEY...!
WHA?

W-WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, KYOUSUKE!? HAVE YOU GONE MAD TOO!?
NO...
SNAP OUT OF IT!
HE BEAT ME FAIR AND SQUARE!

I...
FAILED TO USE MY HEAD IN THIS GAME...
OUR OPPONENT WAS A COMPLETE NOVICE WHO COULD BARELY EVEN SWING A PROPER STROKE...
ALL HE HAD,
WERE HIS WITS ALONE!
HE CHALLENGED ME WITH THAT ALONE!
SON...
DAD.. REMEMBER WHAT YOU USED TO ALWAYS TELL ME?
YOU TOLD ME TO THINK!
AH!

IS THE SAME AS SWINGING BLINDLY IN THE DARK!
TO NOT THINK DURING PRACTICE,
YOU TOLD ME TO ALWAYS THINK WHEN PRACTIC-ING!
OUR POTENTIAL IS LIMITED BY HOW FAR WE CAN THINK!
BECAUSE FOR HUMANS,
WILL HELP YOU PROGRESS!
THEN NO AMOUNT OF EFFORT,
IF YOU CAN'T THINK AHEAD,
I FAILED TO THINK DURING THIS MATCH!
DAD...
AHHH!

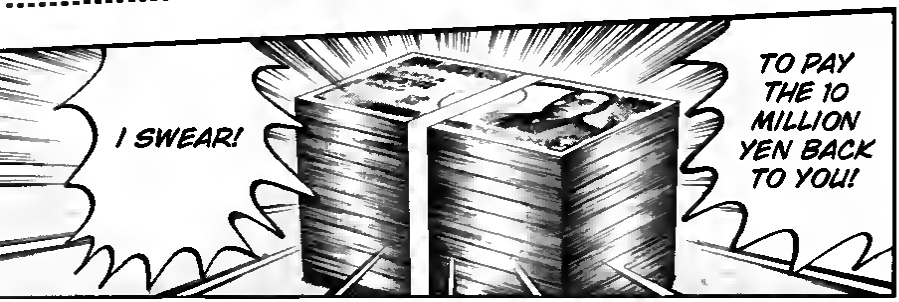
I CAN'T SEE HOW THIS MATCH IS ANYTHING BUT A COMPLETE LOSS FOR ME!

IF WE DON'T ACCEPT HERE AND NOW THAT THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF MY CARELESS MISTAKE,

うぅ・・・

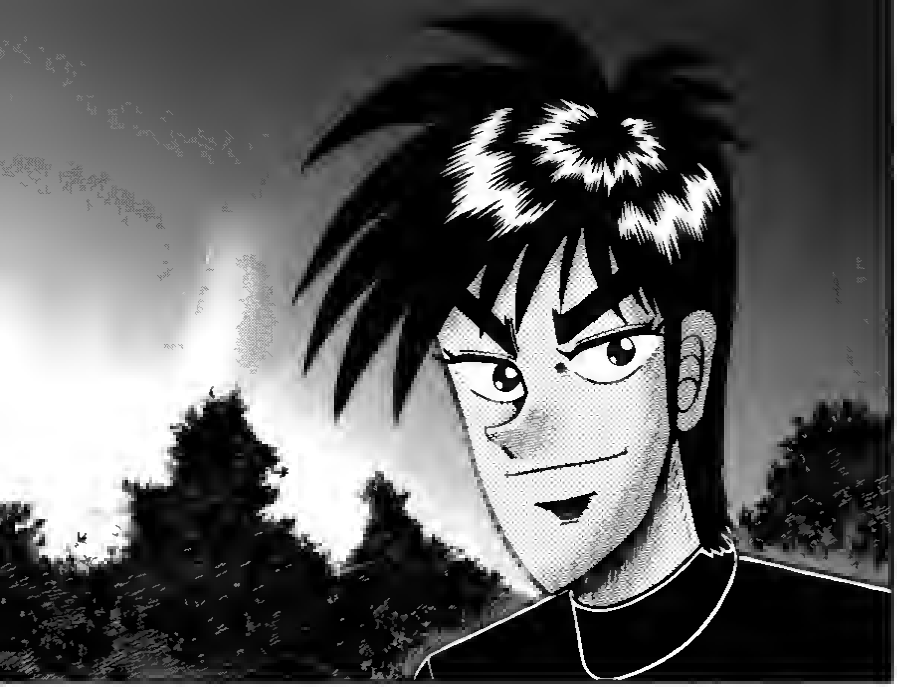
SO PLEASE!
THEN THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CONTINUE TO PROGRESS AS A GOLFER!

I PROMISE...
THAT I'LL WIN PRO TOURNEYS IN THE FUTURE,
PAY THEM THE MONEY!
PLEASE DAD!


I SWEAR!
TO PAY THE 10 MILLION YEN BACK TO YOU!

DOP.
UUU...
!!
KYOU-SUKE...
SO PLEASE PAY THEM THE MONEY!

ZERO!
W-WHAT ARE YOU GETTING CLOSE TO HIM FOR ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
.....
Ooo
HUH?
TAKE OFF YOUR SUN-GLASSES!
.....
LET ME SEE THE FACE OF THE PERSON WHO BEAT ME TODAY!
AT THE VERY LEAST,



I'LL REMEMBER YOUR FACE.

HA.
WELL, DON'T I FEEL LIKE UTTER CRAP NOW? YOU'RE JUST A KID, AREN'T YOU?

NGH!

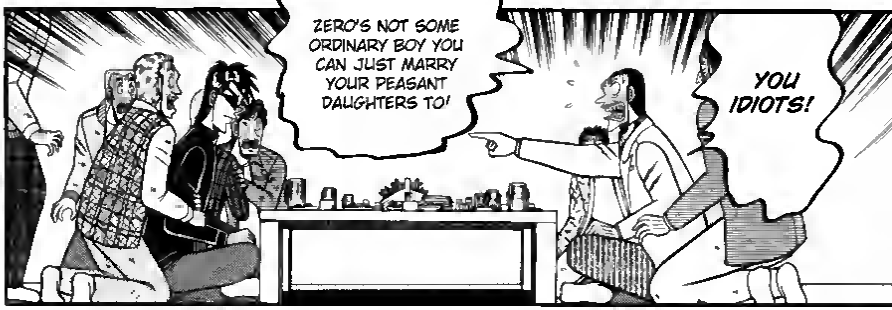
JUST YOU WAIT!
YOU HEAR!?

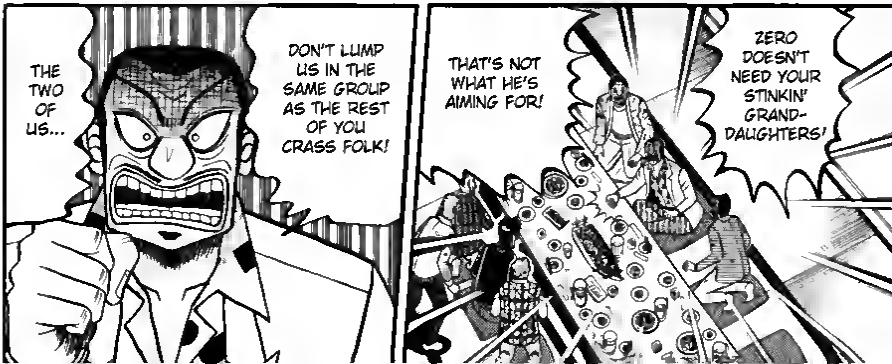
JUST YOU WAIT...
BECAUSE I'LL BEAT YOU ONE DAY FOR SURE!

At the party later that day...
わぁ～～！
ガヤガヤ
ガヤガヤ
ガヤガヤ
CHEERS!
CHEERS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, ZERO!
!!!!!
SO THIS IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO!
THANK YOU!
WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID,

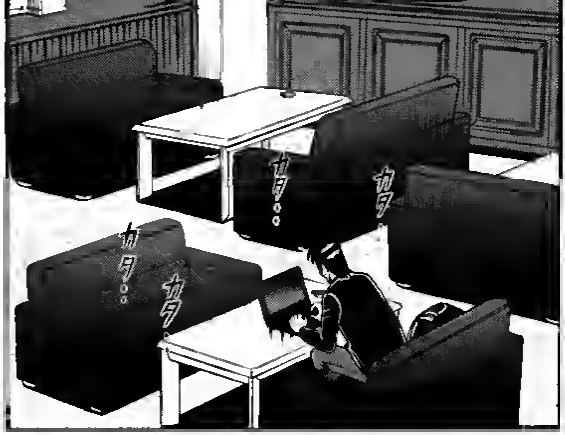
AHH!
MY GRAND-DAUGHTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE IF YOU WANT!
BUT YOU CAN HAVE,
IT MAY NOT BE MUCH,
NO! TAKE MY GRANDDAUGHTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE INSTEAD!
ぐえっ…
I ONLY HAVE GRAND-SONS
I...
うう
NO, MINE!
NO, MINE!
NO, MINE!
うううう
ムムム。。。
MINE!
MINE!
NO, MINE!
HE'S HAVING MINE!

THAT'S ENOUGH!


ZERO'S NOT SOME ORDINARY BOY YOU CAN JUST MARRY YOUR PEASANT DAUGHTERS TO!
YOU IDIOTS!


THE TWO OF US...
DON'T LUMP US IN THE SAME GROUP AS THE REST OF YOU CRASS FOLK!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE'S AIMING FOR!
ZERO DOESN'T NEED YOUR STINKIN' GRAND-DAUGHTERS!

HAVE MUCH NOBLER AND LOFTIER AMBITIONS!
NOBLE?
SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE THESE NOBLE AMBITIONS?
WELL?
WELL?
WELL?
HOW THE HELL IS THAT NOBLE...?
TO BECOME RICHER THAN ANYONE CAN IMAGINE...!


カタ。
カタ。
カタ。

カタ。

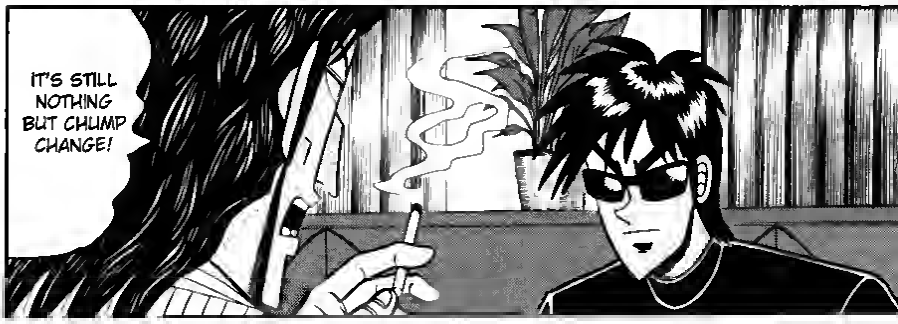
カタ…
カタ
カタ

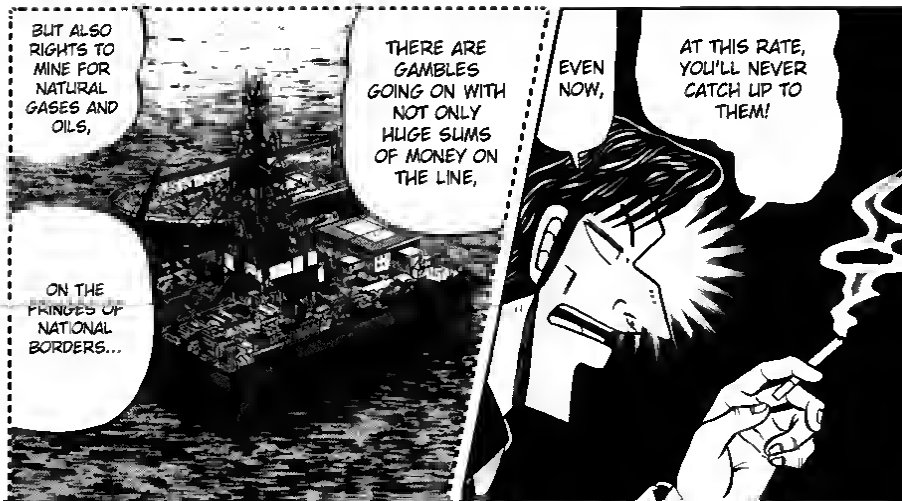
YOU WON...

I HEARD.

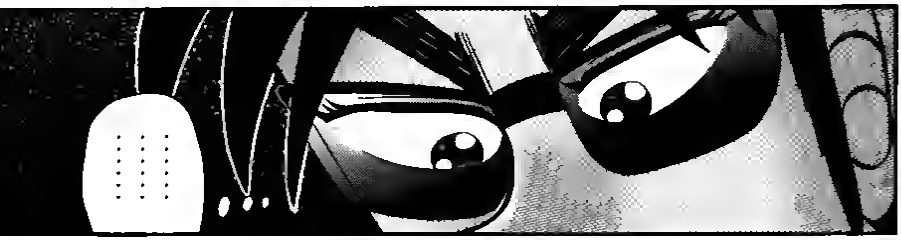
IN THAT LITTLE GOLFING MATCH OF YOURS...
.....
THAT I DID.
Itakura:
A gang mambar who porticipatad in the gambling tournamant at Draam Kingdom soma yaars ago.
JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA STICK AROUND WITH,
HAHA.
HE'S RELIABLE ENOUGH TO ME...
NO HE AIN'T!
THAT INCOMPETENT,
AND UNRELI-ABLE IDIOT?

YOU TWO UNEXPECTEDLY PICKED UP 10 MILLION DURING YOUR MATCH TODAY,
BUT IN ANY CASE,
'COURSE.
THEY'RE BARELY WORTH 1 OR 2 MILLION YEN!
THE GAMBLES THAT GUY BRINGS TO YOU ARE ALL TRASH!


IT'S STILL NOTHING BUT CHUMP CHANGE!


BUT ALSO RIGHTS TO MINE FOR NATURAL GASES AND OILS,
ON THE FRINGES OF NATIONAL BORDERS...
THERE ARE GAMBLES GOING ON WITH NOT ONLY HUGE SUMS OF MONEY ON THE LINE,
EVEN NOW,
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO THEM!

AND YOU CAN DAMN WELL BET SHIRUBE AND ZAIZEN ARE PLAYING THOSE KINDS OF GAMBLES!
LITERALLY, A GAMBLING WAR!


.....
!!

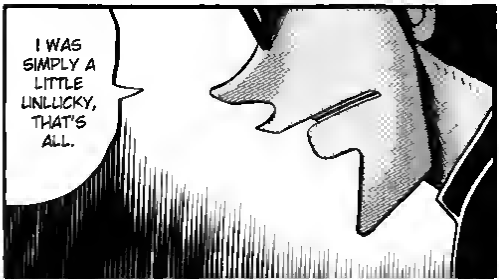
THAT AIN'T GONNA CUT IT!
I'LL TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME FOR NOW.
BUT..
THE ROAD AHEAD IS A FAR ONE AS YOU SAY,
ｶﾀ
ｶﾀ

IT'S A WASTE OF YOUR TALENTS!
. . . . . .
AT THE VERY LEAST, NOT AS LONG AS YOU KEEP PAIRING UP WITH THAT MOUSTACHED LOSER!

HE ENDED UP WINNING IT ALL,
IT'S TRUE THAT BACK AT DREAM KINGDOM,
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN ANY WAY INFERIOR TO THAT SHIRUBE KID!
TO BE FRANK,

THAT WASN'T A LOSS
HUH?

THAT'S WRONG.
AND YOU LOST, BUT-


I WAS SIMPLY A LITTLE UNLUCKY, THAT'S ALL.

SHIRUBE AND I HAVE YET TO ACTUALLY FACE OFF!

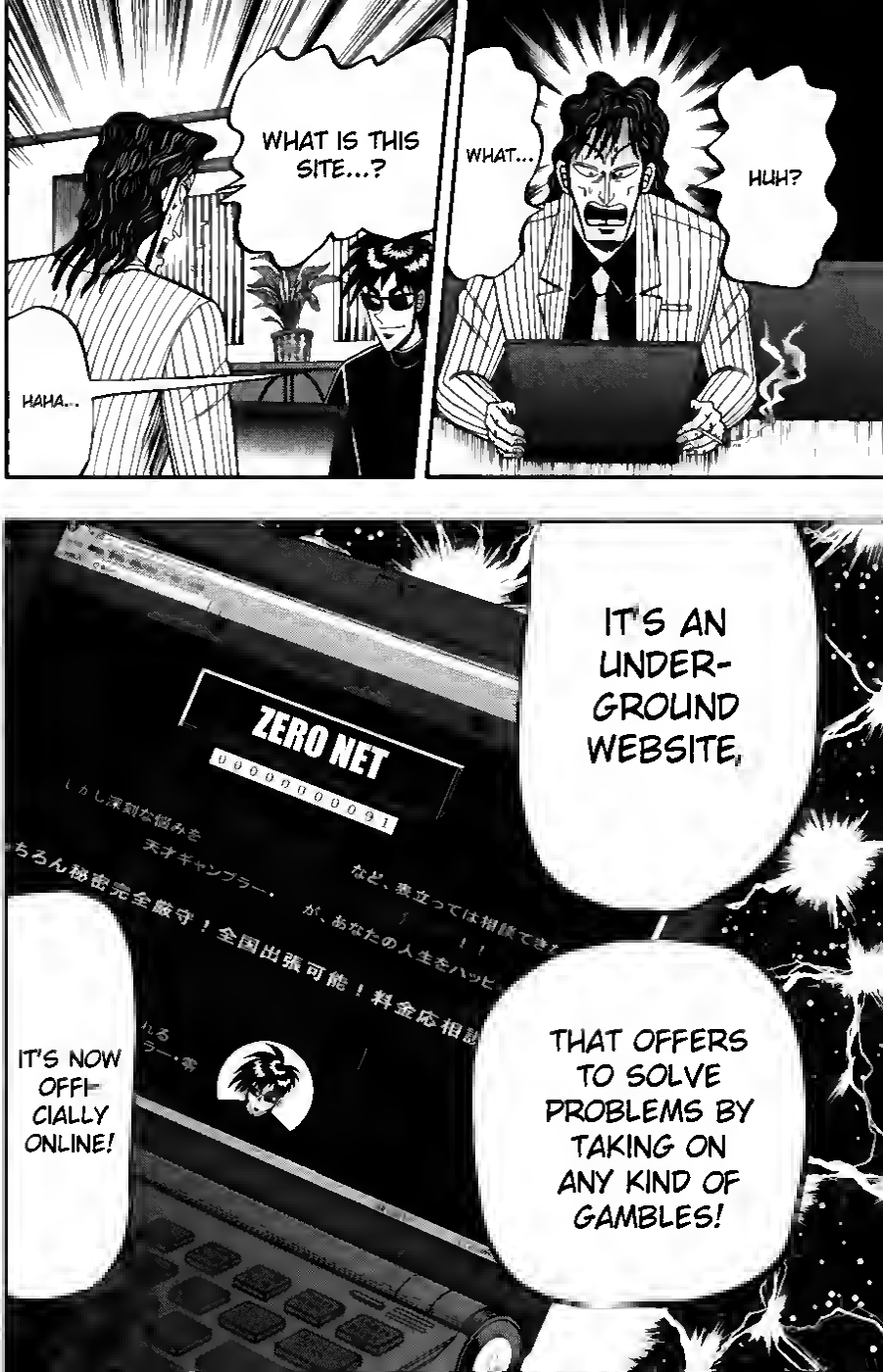
TEAM UP WITH ME INSTEAD! I CAN BRING YOU MUCH BETTER GAMBLES!
HAHA

FOR YOU TO CUT OFF YOUR TIES WITH THAT LOSER ALREADY!
THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON.

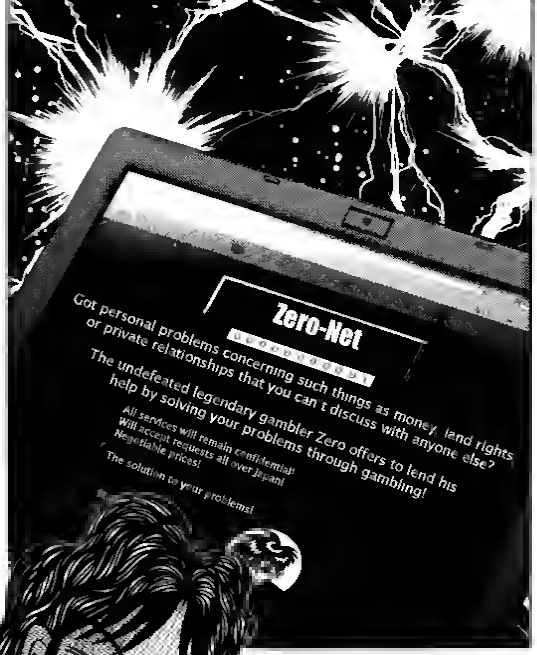
THEN-
THAT'LL ALL BE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

http://kc.kodansha.co.jp/SEP/02065/special/zeronet/
IT'S TRUE THAT THE GAMBLES SUEZAKI BRINGS ISN'T MUCH-

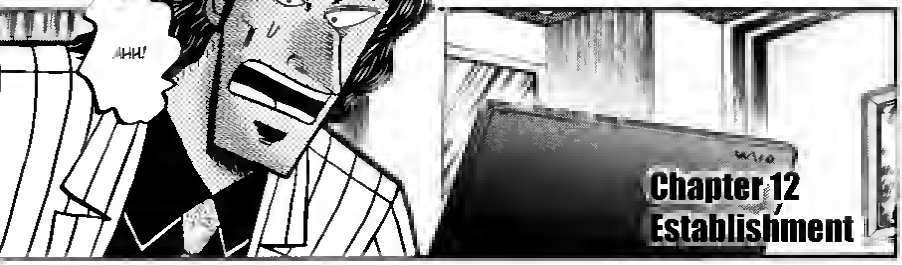
?
TAKE A LOOK.
スッ!
I'VE ALSO STARTED THIS IN THE MEANTIME
BUT THAT'S WHY,


WHAT IS THIS SITE...?
HAHA...
WHAT...
HUH?
ZERO NET
IT'S AN UNDER-GROUND WEBSITE,
THAT OFFERS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS BY TAKING ON ANY KIND OF GAMBLES!
IT'S NOW OFFI-CIALLY ONLINE!

An underground gambling site!


Zero-Net
Got personal problems concerning such things as money, land rights or private relationships that you can t discuss with anyone else?
The undefeated legendary gambler Zero offers to lend his help by solving your problems through gambling!
All services will remain confidential!
Will accept requests all over Japan!
Negotiable prices!
The solution to your problems!

Zero-Net,



HAHA...
THIS SITE SOUNDS WAY TOO SUSPICIOUS! NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD SERIOUSLY USE A SITE LIKE THIS!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?

WORD ABOUT ME IS SPREADING PRETTY FAST.
AND MY RESULTS UNTIL NOW,
WITH SUEZAKI'S BUSINESSES,
NOT QUITE...

STOP WASTING YOUR TIME AND COME UP TO THE BIG STAGE WITH ME!
YOU'LL STILL BE ONLY WORKING FOR CHUMP CHANGE!
EVEN IF THIS SITE DOES PULL IN CUSTOMERS,
MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK...

I CAN BRING YOU MUCH BETTER CLIENTS!
WITH THE CONNEC-TIONS I HAVE,

.....
STOP RIGHT THERE!
YOU'LL MAKE YOUR WAY UP IN NO TIME!

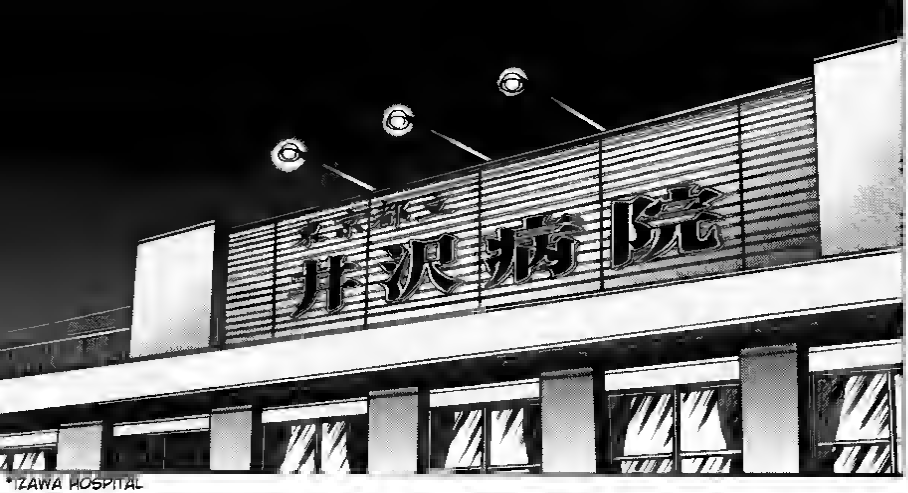
DON'T YOU DARE...!
DON'T YOU "HUH" ME!
HUH?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO "HUH" ME!
HUH?
YOU AIN'T NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK!
DON'T YOU DARE DRAG ZERO TO THE PATH OF EVIL!
I SAID...
HUUUUH!?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BAD LUCK!
DO YOU STILL NOT FREAKIN' UNDERSTAND!?

ARGHH!
IF YOU WANT TO RUIN SOMEONE'S LIFE...
THAT ZERO'S TALENTS ARE ROTTING AWAY IN OBSCURITY!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR MEDIOCRE SKILLS,

YOU PIECE OF TRASH!?
GOT IT,
THEN STICK TO RUINING YOUR LIFE ALONE!
UU...
SON OF A...!
WHY YOU LITTLE!
ARGHHH!
AGH!
ポカ
WHO YOU CALLIN' A PIECE OF TRASH!
チャラ・・・
GONNA GO GET SOME FRESH AIR.
ZERO!
AH-
・・・・

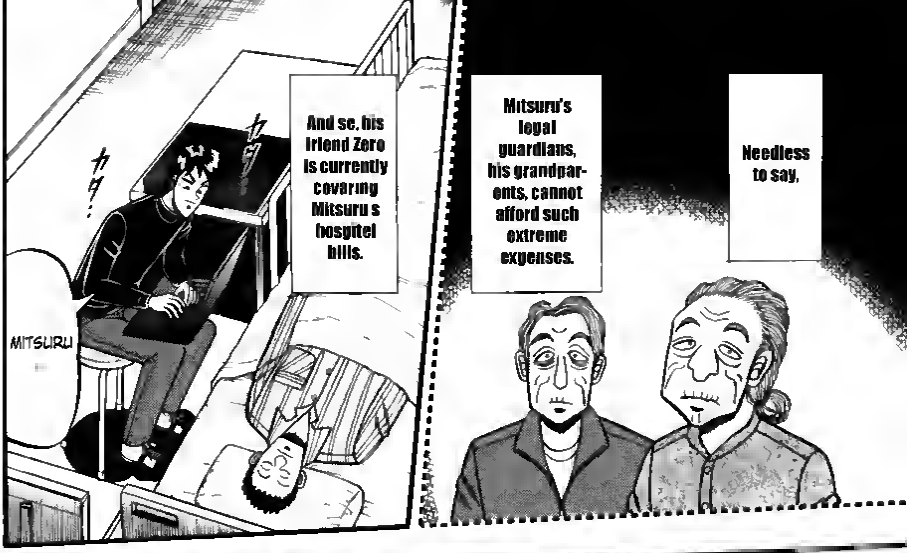
オオオオン
ドゥン
オオオン



*IZAWA HOSPITAL

Here lies a coma-tose patient,
In other words,
スススッ
サササッ
スススッ

And ended up taking a colossal iron ball to the head.
He tried to shield Zero.
During one of the gambles at Dream Kingdom,
Some years ago,
He lies in a vegetative state.
He is Kubo Mitsuru.
Is extremely costly.
But to keep him here this for years,
But he shows no signs of waking up from his somatose state.
Miraculously, he survived,

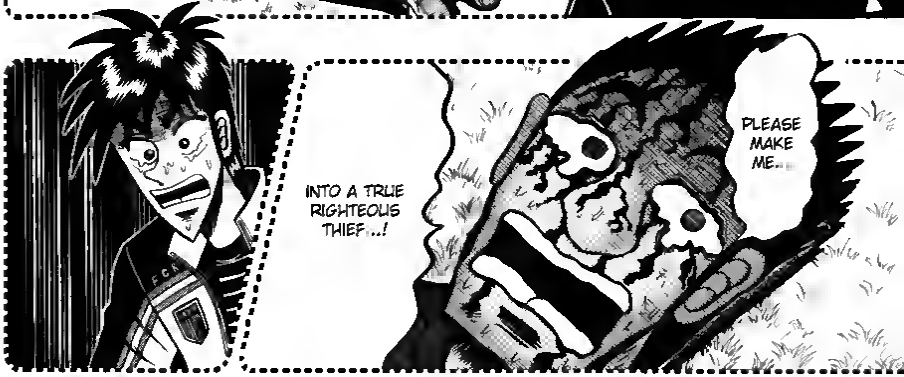

And so, his friend Zero is currently covering Mitsuru's hospital bills.
MITSURU
Mitsuru's legal guardians, his grandparents, cannot afford such extreme expenses.
Needless to say,

LOOK AT THE SITE I STARTED UP.

BUT IF RUMOURS SPREAD...
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THIS SITE,
HA...

SHIRUBE!
SHIRUBE MIGHT COME CONTACT ME...
THE TWO OF US HAVE TO FACE OFF ONE MORE TIME.
THIS SITE WILL HELP MAKE THAT HAPPEN.
WE HAVE TO...!
AH!
BUT THAT'S ONLY THE SECONDARY OBJECTIVE.
THE FIRST AND FOREMOST REASON,
WHY I MADE THIS WEBSITE,
IS THE PROMISE I MADE WITH YOU...
THIS IS A SITE TO ACTUALIZE OUR PROMISE!

ZERO...
RED GRASS
D-DON'T TALK! YOU SHOULD TRY YOUR BEST NOT TO MOVE!


INTO A TRUE RIGHTEOUS THIEF...!
PLEASE MAKE ME...

TO HELP THOSE IN NEED...
ALL THAT MONEY...
SO YOU CAN USE...
THE MISFORTUNATE UNFAIRLY TOSSED ASIDE BY THE REST OF SOCIETY...
WIN...
WHAT!?

UU...!
THOSE PEOPLE!
PLEASE HELP...
AS LONG AS YOU CAN DO THAT,
MY DEATH WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!
EVEN IF I WERE TO DIE NOW,
ボロ。
ボロ。
ボロ。
RIGHT, ZERO...?
AFTER ALL...
WE'RE COMRADES, RIGHT...?

THAT'S RIGHT...
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, MITSURU.
WE'RE RIGHTEOUS THIEVES,
SO WE DON'T NEED MONEY FOR OURSELVES.
OUR CALLING IN LIFE,
IS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED, EVEN IF THEY'RE COMPLETE STRANGEERS!
BUT..
THAT'S ALSO WHY,
I THINK..

I HAVE TO CRUSH EVIL!
I CAN'T JUST IGNORE THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM...!
MITSURU,
I'VE CHANGED IF EVEN BY JUST A LITTLE...!

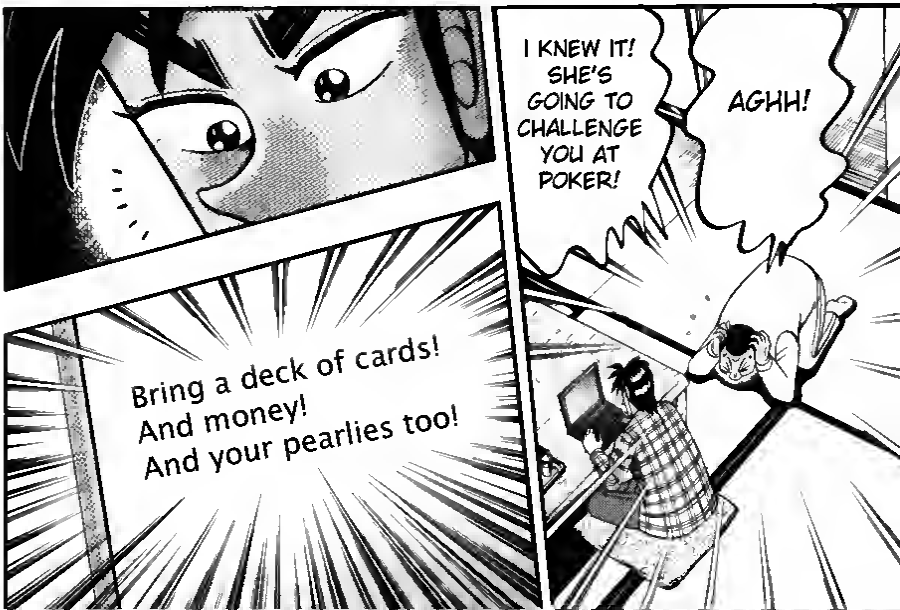
ZERO!
Few days later...
HUH?
IT'S ABOUT YOUR SITE!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!
BIG NEWS!
THROUGH E-MAIL!
YOU JUST GOT A DIRECT CHALLENGE OFFERED TO YOU,

THE NOTORIOUS POKER QUEEN!
Zero? By Zero, do you mean the same undefeated legendary gambler of the underground world...?
Are you really that same Zero!? I heard he was supposed to be quite the handsome boy!♡
Well if you are, I'd like to just eat you up! ♡♡
Oooh, I can't wait! (>_<)(>_<)
-Elizabeth Junko-
NOT ONLY THAT, IT'S FROM ELIZABETH JUNKO.
AND SHE'S NEVER KNOWN DEFEAT EITHER!
SHE SUPPOSEDLY ONLY PLAYS POKER AND POKER-RELATED GAMES!
YEAH!
POKER?
AHH!
UNDEFEATED?
STRONG
ｶﾀ･･･ ｶﾀ･･･ ｶﾀ･･･

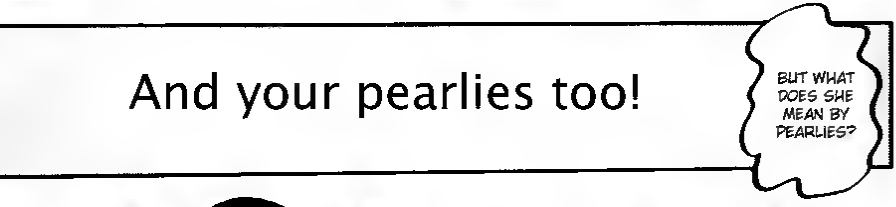
Oh, you silly goose!
Need I spell out everything for you? More importantly...

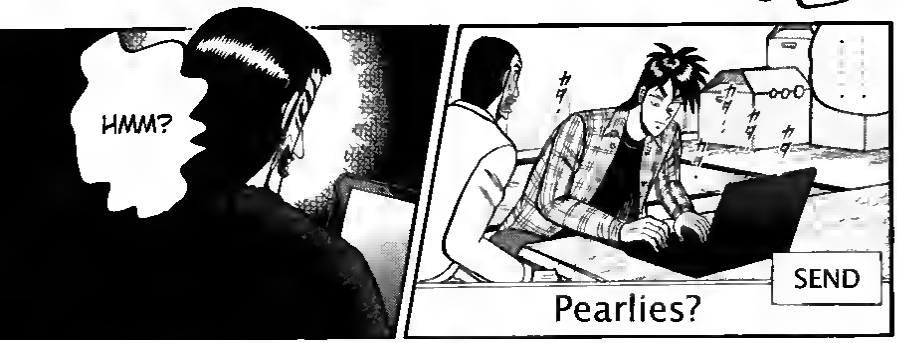
Yes, this is that same Zero.
By wanting to "eat me up," in other words, you mean to challenge me, right?

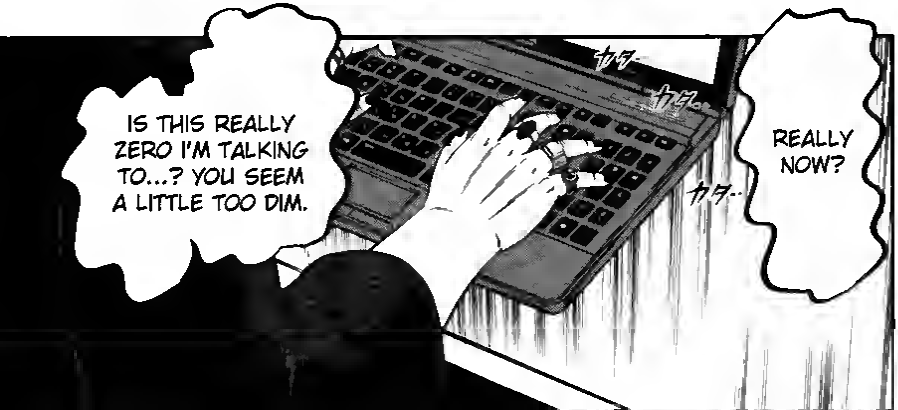
Bring a deck of cards!

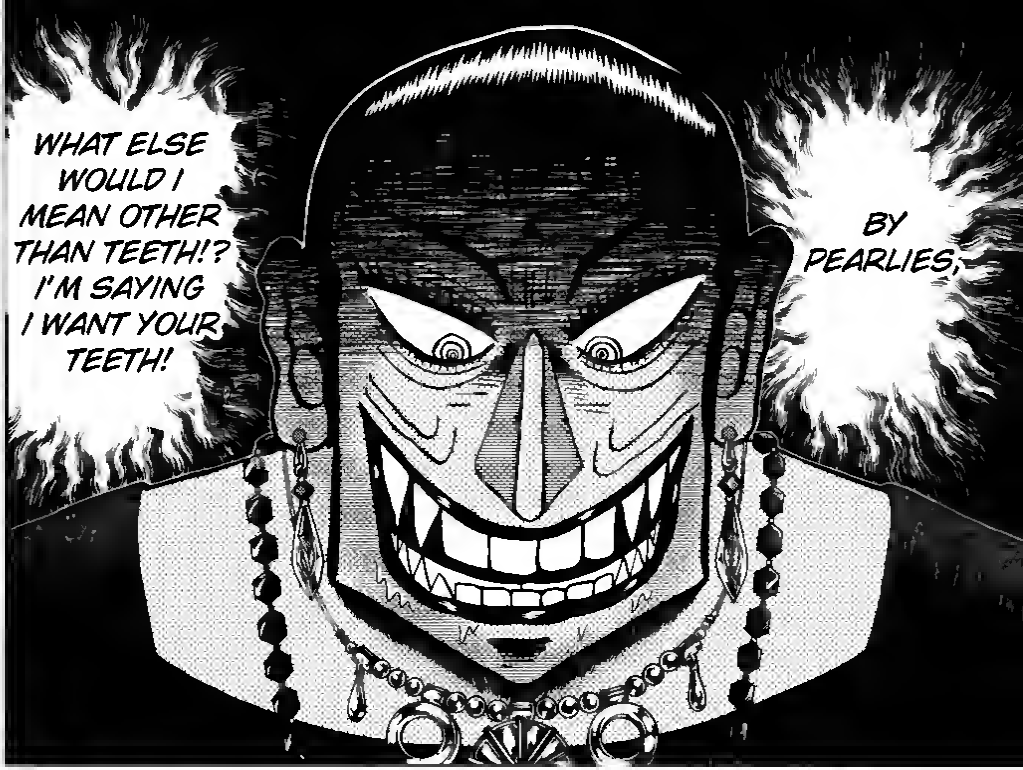


, you si erything
eed I s rtantly...
or you?
THE PART ABOUT THE CARDS AND MONEY,
I CAN UNDER-STAND,
HUH?
STRONG TIGER
Bring a deck of cards!
And money!
And your pearlies too!


And your pearlies too!
BUT WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY PEARLIES?


HMM?
SEND
Pearlies?


IS THIS REALLY ZERO I'M TALKING TO...? YOU SEEM A LITTLE TOO DIM.
REALLY NOW?



Let me feast on your teeth!
So make sure to bring all your pearlies!

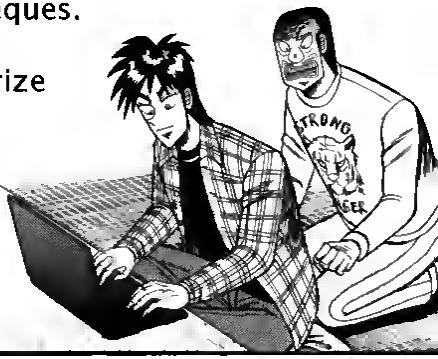
Let me feast on your teeth!
So make sure to bring all your pearlies!

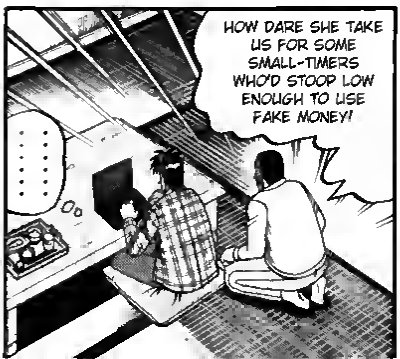
How much cash should I be bringing?

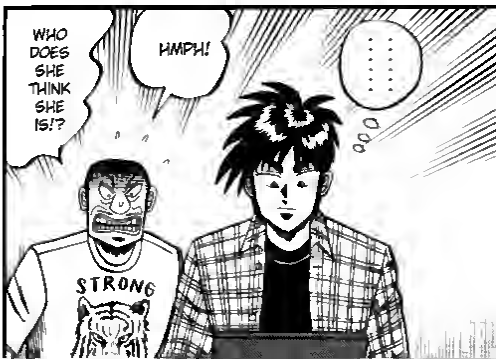
REPLY

As much as you have!

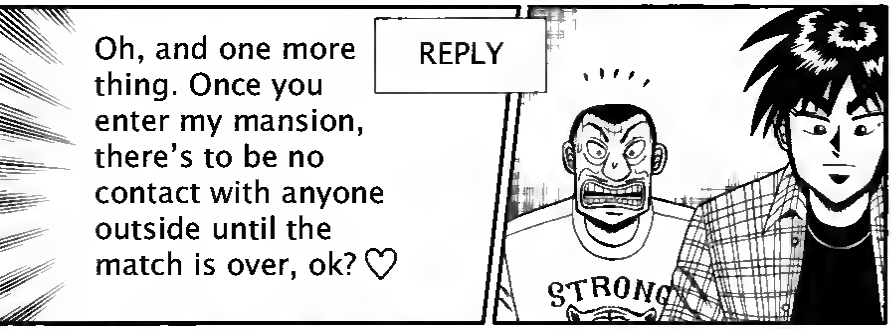
But cash only! No cards or cheques.
Alright, hunny bunny? ♡
After all, I want to claim my prize right on the day of the match.
And don't take this the wrong way but I'll have to check if the money's real when you arrive at my mansion, ok?

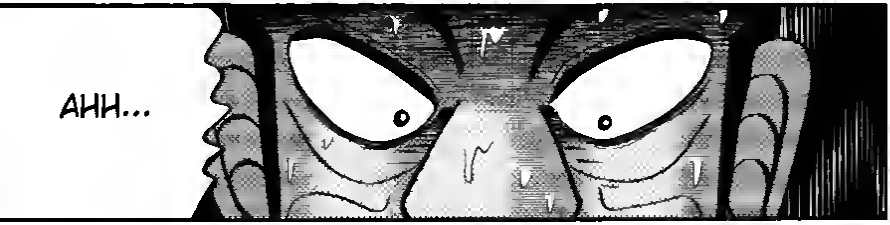






カチ…
ANOTHER ONE!
AH!
You have mail.
New Messages: 1
Unread Messages: 0

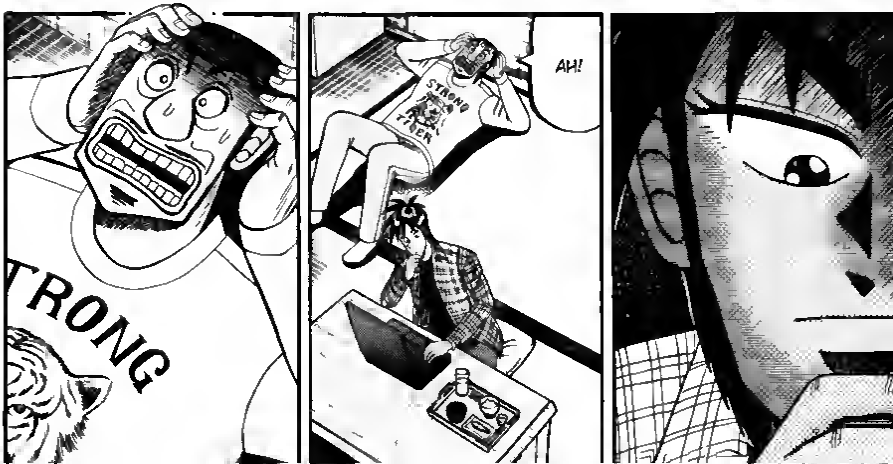

Oh, and one more thing. Once you enter my mansion, there's to be no contact with anyone outside until the match is over, ok? ♡
REPLY
STRONG


AHH...

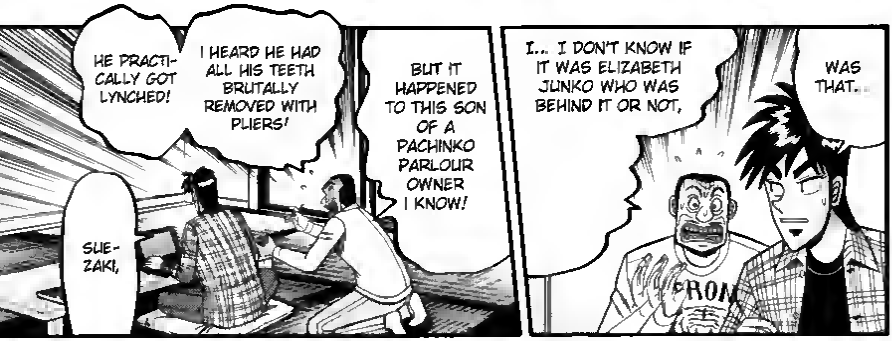
THIS BASI-CALLY MEANS,
THIS SOUNDS WAY TOO FISHY!
WE'LL BE CORNERED RATS FOR THE WHOLE TIME!
NNNGRAHHH!

SHOULD WE REALLY ACCEPT HER CHALLENGE!?
ARGHH!
STRONG TIGER

Cash only!
Counterfeit bill check
No contact with anyone outside!
Bring a deck of cards!
No cards or cheques!
Poker Match


TRONG
STRONG TIGER
AH!

WHO LOST ALL OF HIS TEETH FROM GAMBLING!
I THINK I'VE HEARD OF A GUY,
I JUST REMEMBERED!
AHHH!
STRONG


HE PRACTICALLY GOT LYNCHED!
I HEARD HE HAD ALL HIS TEETH BRUTALLY REMOVED WITH PLIERS!
BUT IT HAPPENED TO THIS SON OF A PACHINKO PARLOUR OWNER I KNOW!
SUEZAKI,
I... I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS ELIZABETH JUNKO WHO WAS BEHIND IT OR NOT,
WAS THAT...

WOULD YOU MIND LETTING ME MEET WITH THIS PERSON...?

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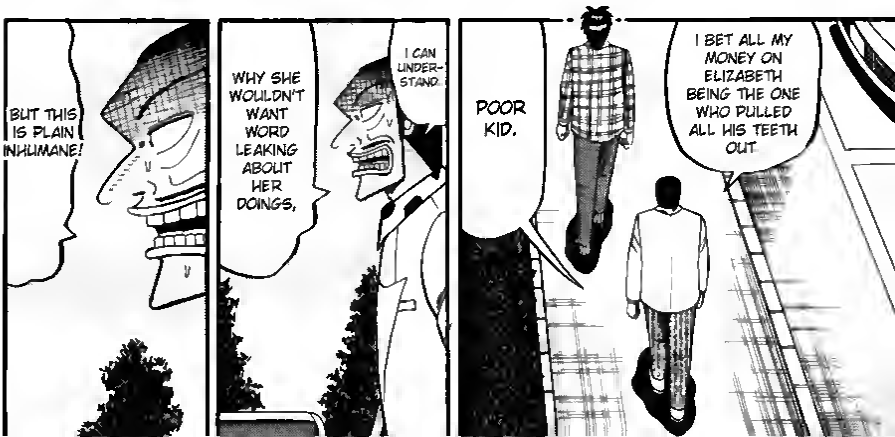
ガク!
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?
DO YOU MIND TELLING ME,

AHHHH!
NOW LISTEN WELL, MY LITTLE DARLING. ♡
GAHHHH!
IF YOU SPEAK EVEN A WORD OF WHAT HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT, THIS WON'T END WITH YOUR TEETH ALONE!
YOUR EYES!
EARS!
LIPS, AND EVEN YOUR TONGUE!
I'LL RIP 'EM ALL OUT UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT ON YOUR FACE!
SO BE A GOOD BOY AND DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD, OKAY? ♡

GAHHHHH!
G-
GO AWAY!

I SAY WE BACK OUT...


I BET ALL MY MONEY ON ELIZABETH BEING THE ONE WHO PULLED ALL HIS TEETH OUT
POOR KID.
I CAN UNDER-STAND.
WHY SHE WOULDN'T WANT WORD LEAKING ABOUT HER DOINGS,
BUT THIS IS PLAIN INHUMANE!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I HAVE TO ACCEPT HER CHALLENGE!
SUEZAKI,
SHE'S A REAL DEMON FOR SURE!
EVEN IF YOU DID WIN,
WHO KNOWS IF SHE'LL ACTUALLY PAY UP!
THE GAMBLE'S GONNA TAKE PLACE IN HER HOME GROUND! IT'LL CLEARLY BE RIGGED TO HER FAVOUR!
YEAH BUT...
IF I DIDN'T, THE NUMBER OF HER VICTIMS WOULD ONLY INCREASE...
TO HELP PREPARE FOR THAT...
THAT'S WHY,
YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.
YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO COME OUT ALI-
NO, NOT ONLY THAT,
HUH?
I HAVE A LITTLE REQUEST!
SUEZAKI,

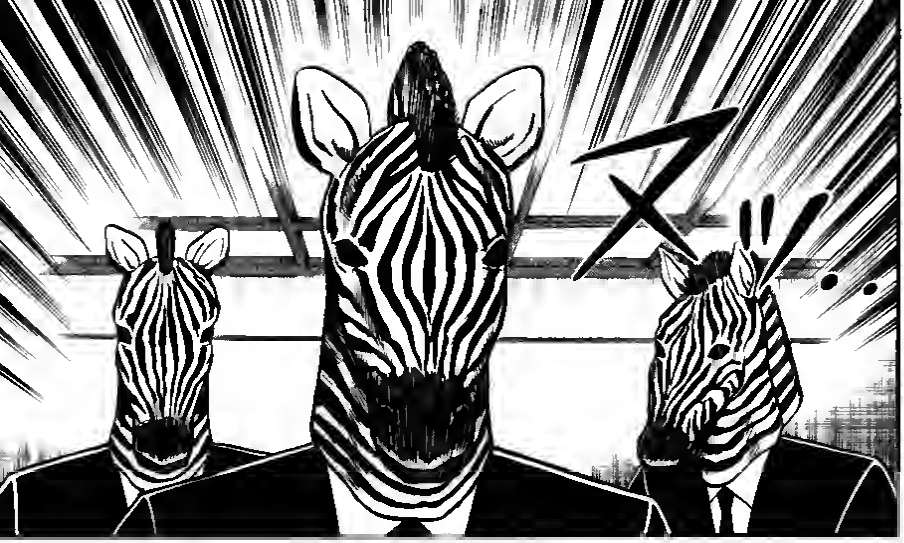
SINCE THE GAME'S GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN THE ENEMY'S LAIR,
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU
ITAKURA,
I WANT YOU AND YOUR MEN TO OFFER ME PROTECTION IN CASE SOMETHING OUT OF THE RULES HAPPEN, AS WELL AS ENSURE THE PROPER COLLECTION OF MONEY WHEN I WIN

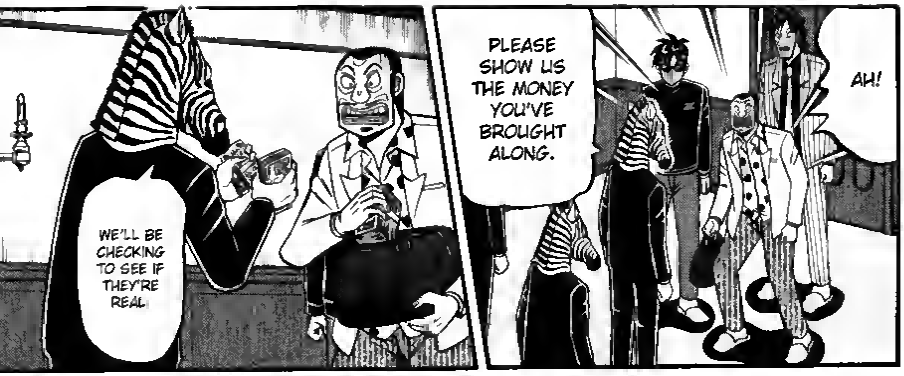
DON'T GET COCKY NOW!
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
GOT IT.
ALSO.. I WANT YOU TO ACT AS THE THIRD-PARTY JUDGE TO PREVENT ANYBODY FROM BLATANTLY CHEATING ..
TODAY'LL BE THE ONLY EXCEPTION, Y'HEAR!?
DON'T YOU DARE GET THE WRONG IDEA,
AND THINK THAT YOU'RE NOW PARTNERS WITH US!
YEAH, YEAH.

RIGHT THEN,
WE SHOULD GET GOING.
THIS IS ZERO.
THE MADAM HAS BEEN EAGERLY WAITING FOR YOU.
CLICK!
THE GATE IS NOW UNLOCKED SO PLEASE COME IN.
THE FRONT DOOR IS UNLOCKED AS WELL,
SO COME RIGHT INSIDE
PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY ACROSS THE HALLWAY.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MY LITTLE ZERO THE HERO!
KYAAA!

SORRY FOR BEING SO SUDDEN BUT...
BOYS!




PLEASE SHOW US THE MONEY YOU'VE BROUGHT ALONG.
AH!
WE'LL BE CHECKING TO SEE IF THEY'RE REAL.

18 MILLION, MADAME.
OH?
THAT'S RATHER SMALL...
THINGS NOT GOING SO WELL FOR YOU THESE DAYS, ZERO?
OH WELL...

MIND FLASHING YOUR PEARLIES FOR ME, M'DEARIE-OH?
KYAAA! ♡
YOU'RE SUCH A CUTIE PIE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU PASS THE REQUIREMENTS! ♡

HMM?
I WANT TO CONFIRM ONE THING BEFORE WE START.
WAIT!
NOW LET'S BEGIN!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE PILE OF CASH TO WAGER...

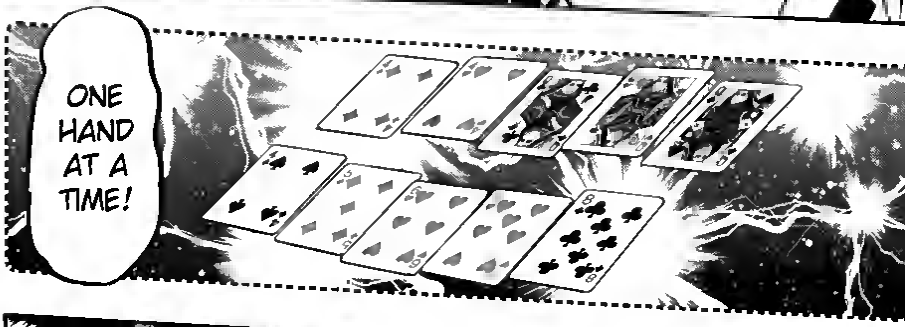
IF SO,
BUT WE'LL BE PLAYING POKER, WON'T WE?
HOHO,
THAT JUST MEANS I'M EXCITED FOR OUR MATCH IS THAT A PROBLEM, DEAR?
NO, I DON'T MIND THAT,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH YOUR RAISES.
THAT IS, ASSUMING WE PLAY WITH NO BETTING LIMITS...
THERE WON'T BE ANY RAISES IN THE GAME WE'LL PLAY TODAY.
DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD OVER THAT
HUH!?
HO HO HO!
IT WON'T EVEN REMOTELY BE A FAIR MATCH THEN!
LET'S HURRY UP AND BEGIN!
NOW SIT, SIT!
.....
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'LL BE A FAIR GAME WHERE WE'LL EACH BE BETTING WITH INCREMENTS OF A MILLION YEN!
NO RAISES?

IT'S TIME FOR 100 CARD POKER!

SO YOU CAN MAKE WHAT YOU THINK,
JUST CHOOSE THE ONES YOU LIKE,
ARE THE 10 STRONGEST HANDS!
I'LL BE DOING THE SAME!
YOU'LL BE MAKING 10 SETS OF POKER HANDS, EACH CONSISTING OF 5 CARDS EACH!
Straight
Flush
Full House

EXCLUDING THE 2 JOKERS, A DECK HAS 52 CARDS
YOU BROUGHT YOUR DECK WITH YOU, RIGHT?
100?
WITH THOSE 52 CARDS,

AND THEN WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE'LL USE THOSE 10 SETS OF HANDS...
TO CLASH AGAINST EACH OTHER!


ONE HAND AT A TIME!

SOUND FUN? ♡
……
……

ざわ‥
ざわ‥
ざわ‥
A face-off,
Between the 10 hands,
Each player will create!
KI KI KI!

COME ON! SIT, SIT, SIT!
A-ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
THE HELL IS 100 CARD POKER!?
YOU CAN'T JUST EXPECT US TO SIT AND START PLAYING,
SOME WEIRD VARIANT OF POKER WE'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF BEFORE!

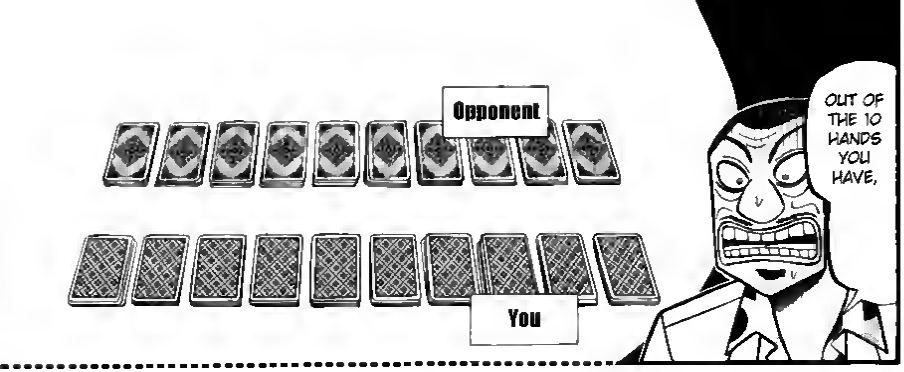
THIS IS WAY TOO SUDDEN!
SHUT UP!

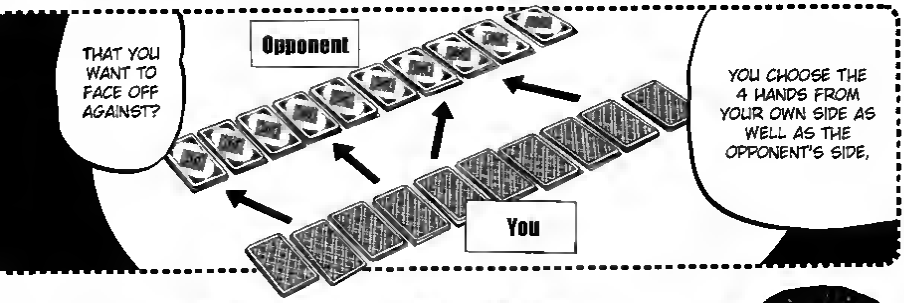
YOUR VOICE IS AS UNBEAR-ABLE AS YOUR FACE!
WHA!
I WAS *GOING TO* EXPLAIN THE RULES EVEN WITHOUT YOUR WHINING!
BRING THE BOARD!
RIGHT AWAY!

カラ..
カラ..
THE RULES FOR 100 CARD POKER,
AS YOU CAN SEE,
100 CARD POKER (HOUSE
1 game consists of 10 rounds.
4 turns on offense, 4 turns on defense
(The one who started the first turn on
will be on offense for the last 2 rounds
No raises.
ARE ALL WRITTEN OUT PLAINLY ON THIS BOARD
SO PLEASE PERUSE THEM AT YOUR OWN WILL.

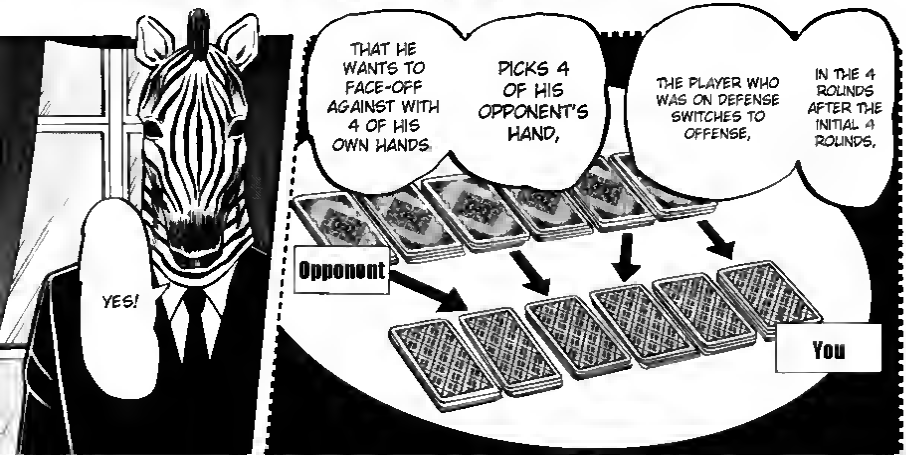
1 game consists of 10 rounds.

4 turns on offense, 4 turns on defense
(The one who started the first turn on defense will be on offense for the last 2 rounds)

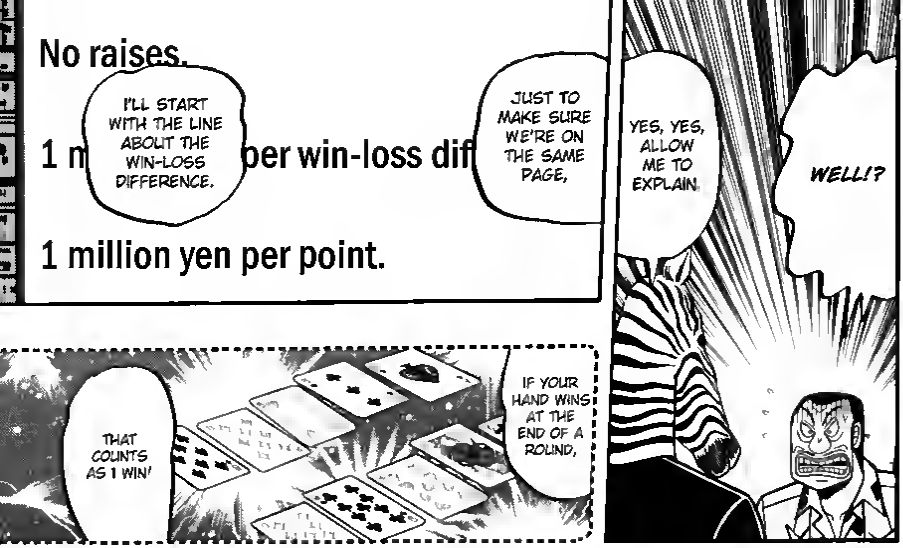

Opponent
You
OUT OF THE 10 HANDS YOU HAVE,

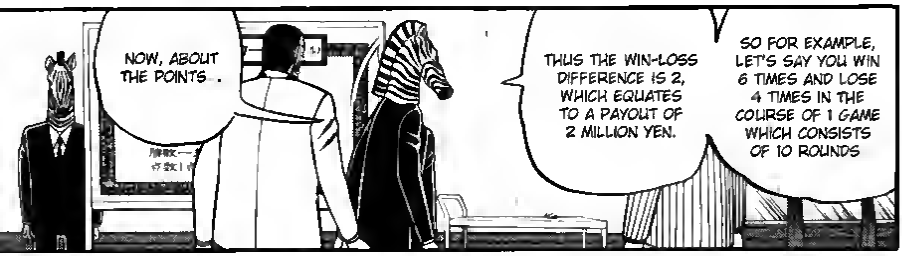

THAT YOU WANT TO FACE OFF AGAINST?
Opponent
You
YOU CHOOSE THE 4 HANDS FROM YOUR OWN SIDE AS WELL AS THE OPPONENT'S SIDE,

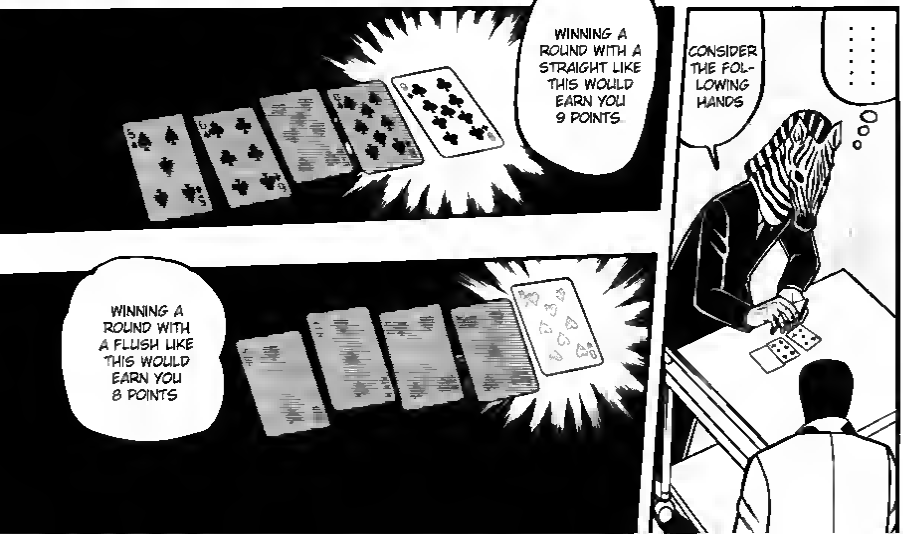
SO THEN...
IMPRES-SIVE!
YES, EXACTLY!


YES!
THAT HE WANTS TO FACE-OFF AGAINST WITH 4 OF HIS OWN HANDS.
PICKS 4 OF HIS OPPONENT'S HAND,
THE PLAYER WHO WAS ON DEFENSE SWITCHES TO OFFENSE,
IN THE 4 ROUNDS AFTER THE INITIAL 4 ROUNDS,
Opponent
You

HMPH!
AS EXPECTED FROM A MAN WHO'S BRAVED DEATH COUNTLESS OF TIMES!
YOUR QUICK UNDERSTANDING IS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD!
TRULY,
STOP TRYIN' TO KISS MY ASS!
I WANT TO ASK ABOUT THIS!
No raises.
1 million yen per win-loss difference.
1 million yen per point.
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
EVEN AN IDIOT WOULD UNDERSTAND AT LEAST THAT MUCH!
THE BIT ABOUT 1 MILLION PER POINT MEAN!?
BUT JUST WHAT THE HELL DOES...
1 million yen per win-loss
1 million yen per point
I CAN UNDERSTAND THE PART ABOUT NO RAISES AND WINNING 1 MILLION YEN PER POINT FROM THE WIN-LOSS DIFFERENCE,


No raises.
I'LL START WITH THE LINE ABOUT THE WIN-LOSS DIFFERENCE.
1 m per win-loss dif
1 million yen per point.
JUST TO MAKE SURE WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE,
YES, YES, ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
WELL!?
IF YOUR HAND WINS AT THE END OF A ROUND,
THAT COUNTS AS 1 WIN!

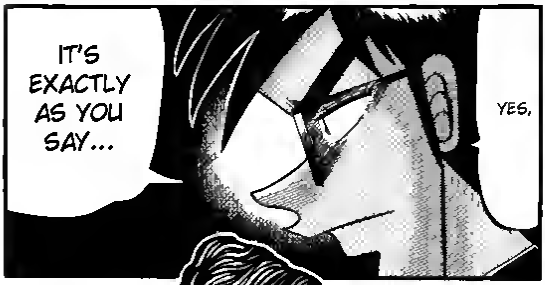

NOW, ABOUT THE POINTS.
THUS THE WIN-LOSS DIFFERENCE IS 2, WHICH EQUATES TO A PAYOUT OF 2 MILLION YEN.
SO FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY YOU WIN 6 TIMES AND LOSE 4 TIMES IN THE COURSE OF 1 GAME WHICH CONSISTS OF 10 ROUNDS


WINNING A ROUND WITH A STRAIGHT LIKE THIS WOULD EARN YOU 9 POINTS
CONSIDER THE FOL-LOWING HANDS
WINNING A ROUND WITH A FLUSH LIKE THIS WOULD EARN YOU 8 POINTS

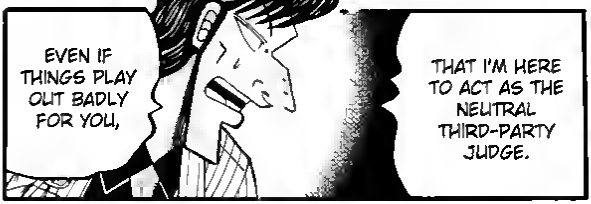
THE HIGHEST CARD OF YOUR HAND,
WHEN YOU WIN A ROUND,
DETERMINES HOW MANY POINTS YOU'VE EARNED.
UNDER-STAND?
BUT RATHER 14 POINTS, MAKING IT THE HIGHEST CARD.
ACE WILL NOT EQUATE TO 1 POINT.
ALSO
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
ZERO
IS THAT CLEAR?

IN THIS GAME,
ALL BECAUSE OF THIS POINT SYSTEM!
MONEY'LL BE FLYING BY!
THAT'S 30 MILLION YEN!
10 ROUNDS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO CREATE A DIFFERENCE OF 30 POINTS OR MORE.
IF THINGS GO BADLY
THAT MEANS YOU COULD BECOME BROKE AFTER JUST 1 GAME!
SINCE YOU ONLY HAVE 18 MILLION WITH YOU TODAY,

TO BE BLUNT, THIS GAME'S WAY TOO RISKY!

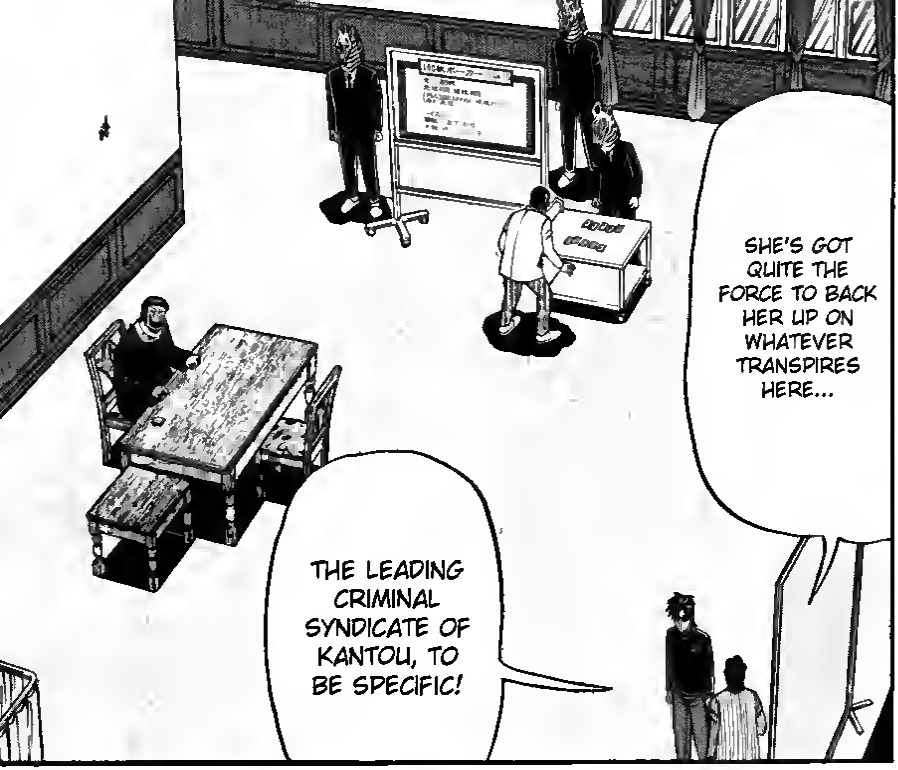

IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAY...

YES,


EVEN IF THINGS PLAY OUT BADLY FOR YOU,
THAT I'M HERE TO ACT AS THE NEUTRAL THIRD-PARTY JUDGE.

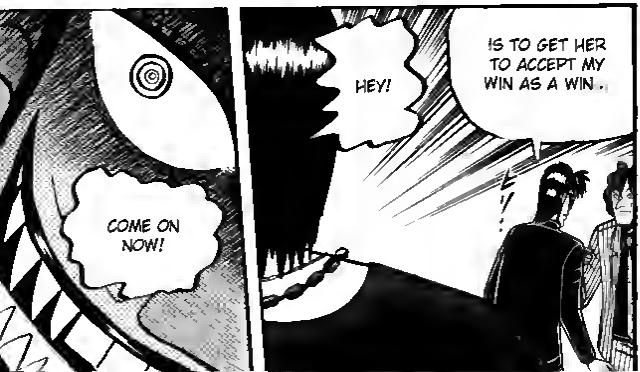
LET ME JUST WARN YOU RIGHT NOW,

NOT ONLY THAT...
THERE'S NOT A THING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU!


SHE'S GOT QUITE THE FORCE TO BACK HER UP ON WHATEVER TRANSPIRES HERE...
THE LEADING CRIMINAL SYNDICATE OF KANTOU, TO BE SPECIFIC!

ALL I REALLY ASK OF YOU,
OF COURSE, OF COURSE. I WOULDN'T EVEN WANT YOU TO DO SUCH A THING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

HAHA.
SO IF YOU LOSE, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST SWING MY WEIGHT AROUND AND FORCE HER TO ACCEPT YOUR LOSS AS A WIN...


COME ON NOW!
HEY!
IS TO GET HER TO ACCEPT MY WIN AS A WIN.

WHAT'RE YOU WHISPERING OVER THERE IN PRIVATE?
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SCARED!
♡
AFTER ALL,
IT'S ONLY A GAME OF POKER!
...
oo
YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF IT ONCE WE START PLAYING!

DON'T YOU WORRY, POOR BABY! ♡
IF IN THE VERY UNLIKELY CASE YOU WERE TO RUN OUT OF MONEY,
IT'S NOT AS IF I'D BE SO CRUEL TO TAKE EVEN YOUR LIFE AWAY...
I'LL ONLY TAKE YOUR TEETH!
ARE'NT I KIND?
THEY'RE ONLY TEETH AFTER ALL...
WHY?
HOHO HOHO HOHO!
HMM?
WHY TEETH?
OH?
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY GET FROM TAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S TEETH?

ZERO...?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD,

YOU KNOW, THE SAME STEM CELLS YOU HEAR ABOUT ON THE NEWS! THE ONES THAT CAN GROW INTO ANY TYPE OF CELL IN YOUR BODY!
THEY'RE ARTFICIALLY INDUCED STEM CELLS!

YOU CAN INJECT THEM IN YOUR SKIN FOR A PROCEDURE CALLED "STEM CELL FACELIFT!"

WHAT?
ABOUT iPS CELLS, I MEAN.

BUT THE ONES FROM YOUR SKIN ARE NO GOOD.
THEY'VE BEEN EXPOSED TO TOO MANY YEARS OF HARSH SUNLIGHT.
THEY'RE IMPURE!
AND USELESS!
BUT...
THE ONES IN YOUR TEETH ARE A DIFFERENT MATTER!
BECAUSE DENTAL PULP STEM CELLS HAVE BEEN PROTECTED BY YOUR TEETH!
THEY'RE PERFECTLY PURE!
Dental Pulp
AND BEAUTI-FUL! ♡
AND IF I TAKE THEM UP IN MY BODY...

I CAN BECOME YOUNG AGAIN!
AND BEAUTI-FUL TOO!
.....
YOU CAN UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?
I'M SURE,
W-WAIT!
A LITTLE MISTAKEN ?
AREN'T YOU,

AND LET ME FINISH MY SENTENCE...
JUST CALM DOWN FOR A SEC,
AH-
WHAT!?
JUST WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY PERFECTLY CLEAR EXPLANA-TION!?

YOU CAN USE OTHER PEOPLE'S JUST FINE!
AFTER ALL...
OH, THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL!
DON'T YOU NEED YOUR OWN STEM CELLS?
FOR THOSE FANCY NEW STEM CELL FACELIFT PROCEDURES,

. . . . . .
. . . . . .
HUMAN DNA IS 99.9% SAME BETWEEN YOU AND ANY OTHER PERSON!
O-OK, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE SIMILAR DNA,
BUT EVEN SO...

THERE'S NO REASON TO STEAL OTHER PEOPLE'S TEETH, IS THERE!?
HMM?
WITH THE MONEY AND POWER YOU HAVE,
YOU COULD EASILY GET TEETH FROM DENTAL CLINICS!
WHAT?
IT SEEMS YOU STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND!

DENTAL CLINICS ARE NO GOOD!
AFTER ALL,
THOSE CRUEL DENTISTS USE ANES-THETICS!
THAT'S NO GOOD AT ALL!
THOSE EVIL DRUGS...

TO SURVIVE SUCH A BRUTAL TREATMENT!
MY POOR LITTLE BABIES ARE TOO WEAK,
HOW TRAGIC!
WOULD KILL ALL MY POOR LITTLE DENTAL PULP CELLS!
Dental Pulp Cells
SO THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT FOR ME TO PERSONALLY PULL THE TEETH OUT!
THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS GETT-
NO,
I'M VERY DELICATE WITH MY HANDS!
DON'T YOU WORRY!
HO HO HO.
.....
WITH NO ANESTHET-ICS, OF COURSE!

I CAN REMOVE ALL THE TEETH JUST FINE!
WITHIN JUST 3-4 HOURS.
SO DON'T WORRY, DEAR!
HO HO HO HO HO!
.....

賭博覇王伝
ゼロ
零
ZERO
ギャンボ編
GYANBO

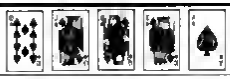
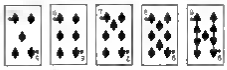
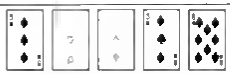
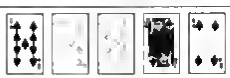
賭博覇王伝
ゼロ
零
ZERO
ギャンキ編
GYANKI

But also...
Losing even a single game could mean not only losing all his money,
Having every single one of his teeth
A traumatic living hell for hours and hours on end!
Force-fully ripped out!
HOLD ON A MINUTE
Z-ZERO!

A high-risk/reward gamble!
That is 100 card poker!
SHE'S A REAL NUTJOB!
THIS GAME IS TOO MUCH!
IT'S INSANE!
ヒソ…
ヒソ…
ヒソ…
SUE-ZAKI,
D-DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN WIN THIS FOR SURE…?
ABOUT PULLING OUT ALL YOUR TEETH!
SHE'S COM-PLETELY SERIOUS,
BUT…
I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING WITH ABSOLUTE CER-TAINTY,
THE GAME HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET.
THAT'S WHY,
SHE'LL CONTINUE TO HARM OTHERS
AND IF I JUST LEAVE NOW,
WHAT I CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN IS THAT THIS WOMAN IS A VICIOUS MANIAC…!
I'LL CRUSH HER,
RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

I HAVE TO BRING HER,
TO ABSOLUTE RUIN!
4 turns on offense, 4 turns on defe
(The one who started the first turn
EXCUSE ME, SIRS.
JUST TO MAKE SURE WE ALL KNOW THE VALUE OF EACH POKER HAND,
PLEASE TURN YOUR ATTEN-TION..

Poker Hand Values

1	Royal Straight Flush	
2	Straight Flush	
3	Four of a Kind	
4	Full House	
5	Flush	
6	Straight	
7	Three of a Kind	
8	Two Pairs	
9	One Pair	
10	High Card	

Suit Value Rankings

1 ♠ 2 ♡ 3 ◇ 4 ♣

For straights, Ace cannot wrap around

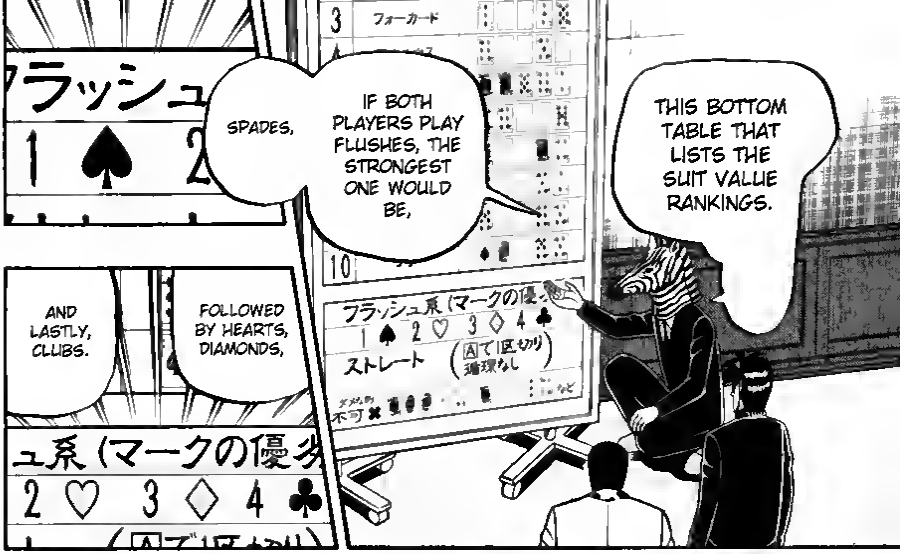
Examples of Straights

TO THE TABLE ON THIS BOARD!

THE RELATIVE VALUES OF POKER HANDS ARE ALL RANKED HERE.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM THE RULES IN A STANDARD GAME OF POKER,

BUT I WOULD LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO...


THIS BOTTOM TABLE THAT LISTS THE SUIT VALUE RANKINGS.
IF BOTH PLAYERS PLAY FLUSHES, THE STRONGEST ONE WOULD BE,
SPADES,
FOLLOWED BY HEARTS, DIAMONDS,
AND LASTLY, CLUBS.

OF COURSE, IN ANY EVENT WHERE BOTH PLAYERS PLAY SIMILAR-VALUED HANDS SUCH AS 2 ROYAL STRAIGHT FLUSHES,
THE WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED ACCORDING TO THESE SUIT RANKINGS.
IS THAT CLEAR?

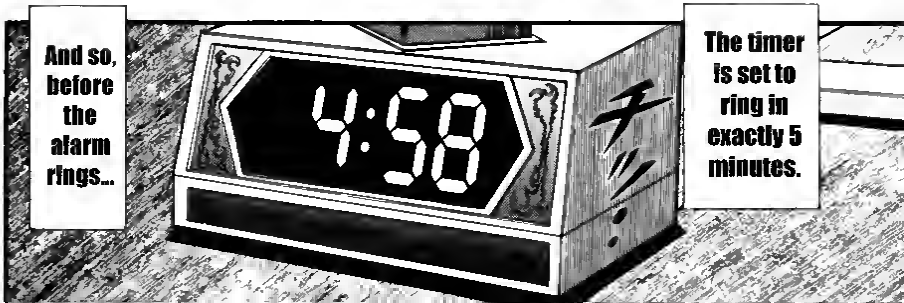
YES
ONE MORE THING.
WHEN MAKING STRAIGHTS, ACE CANNOT "WRAP AROUND."
BY THIS, WE MEAN THAT ACE CANNOT BE SIMULTANE-OUSLY USED AS BOTH 1 AND 14 IN A SINGLE HAND.
Examples of Invalid Straights

ZERO!
ZERO!
ZERO!
OH, ZEROOOO!
THAT CONCLUDES OUR EXPLANATION. ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?
I'M GETTING TIRED OF JUST WAITING, YOU KNOW!?
HASN'T IT BEEN LONG ENOUGH?
A-ARE YOU SURE!?
FINE
LET'S PLAY, LET'S PLAY, LET'S PLAY!
ZERO!
And so...

The game of 100 card poker,
Begins at last!
The first step is choosing the hands!
HEE HEE HEE!

From these 52 cards, each player will make 10 valid poker hands!
Excluding the jokers, a deck has 52 cards.
This is by far the most crucial stage in the game!
HEE HEE ...
Needless to say...
Every hand,
In order to win,
Could potentially spell out an inevitable loss!
A mistake here,
NOW THEN...
Must be chosen with extreme care!

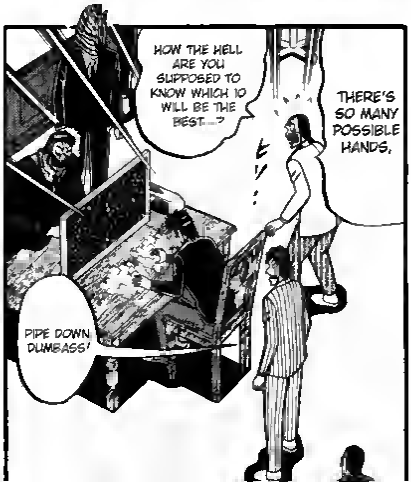
BEGIN!
The time limit is 5 minutes!
4:59


And so, before the alarm rings...
4:58
The timer is set to ring in exactly 5 minutes.

The strongest 10 hands!
Each player must create the ideal 10 hands!
THIS IS BAD...
OH CRAP...
AH...

THERE AIN'T NO POSSI-BILITIES TO EVEN CONSIDER,
WHA?

BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE CHOICE!

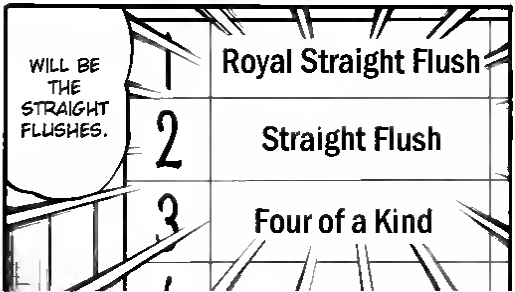

HOW THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHICH 10 WILL BE THE BEST...?
THERE'S SO MANY POSSIBLE HANDS,
PIPE DOWN, DUMBASS!

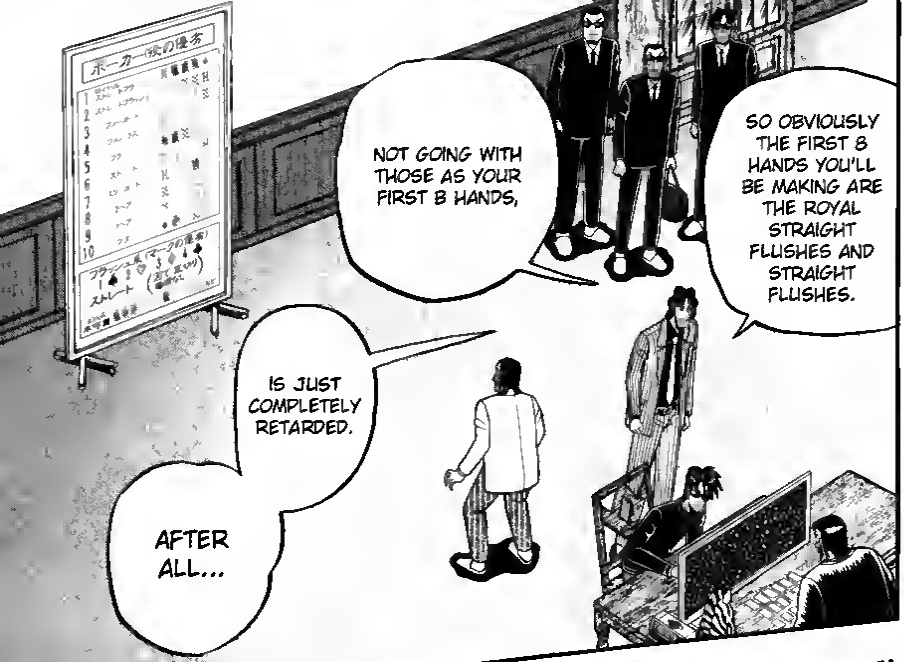
IN THIS GAME, THE 10 HANDS YOU MAKE ARE ALREADY SET IN STONE.
HUH?
SET IN STONE...?
JUST TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE BOARD WITH THE HAND VALUES.

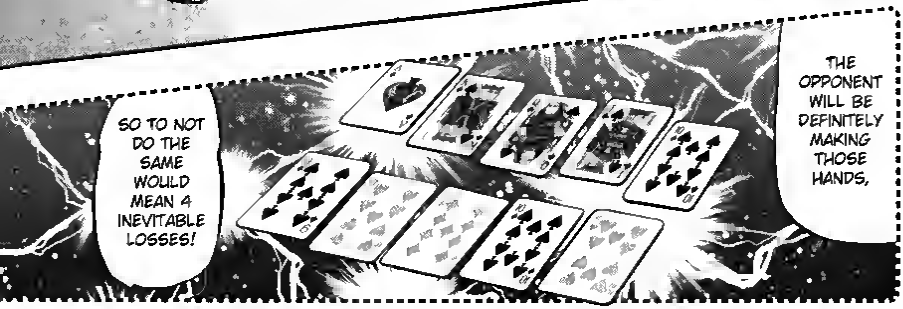
HUH?

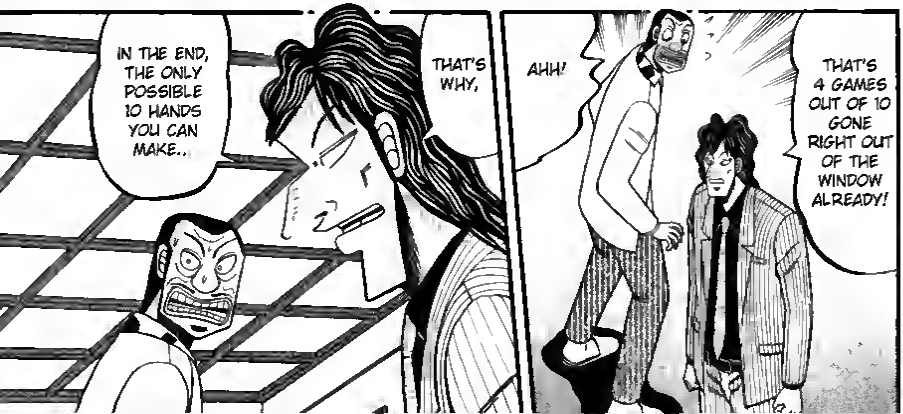
AFTER THAT,
THE STRONGEST HANDS WILL BE THE ROYAL STRAIGHT FLUSHES.

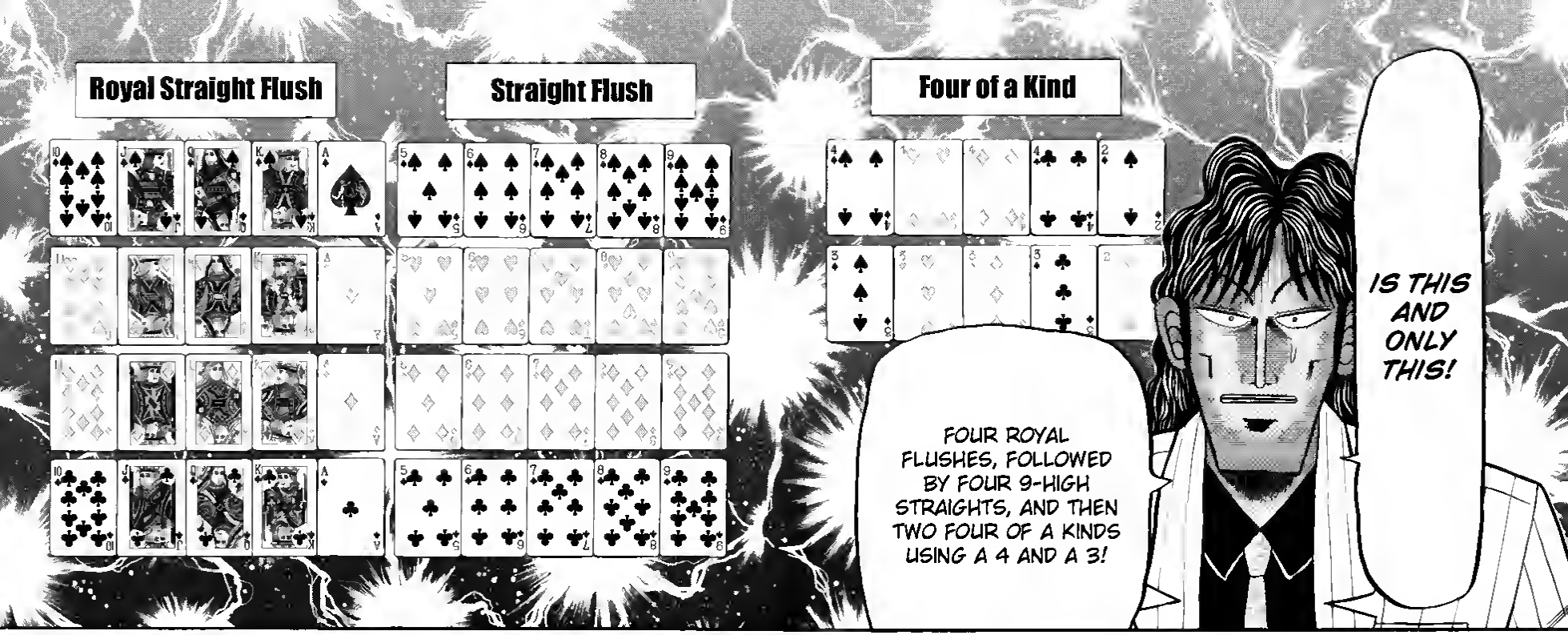
AS YOU CAN SEE,
Poker Hand Value
1 Royal Straight Flush
2 Straight Flush
3 Four of a Kind
4 Full House
5 Flush
6 Straight
7 Three of a Kind
8 Two Pairs
9 One Pair
10 High Card


WILL BE THE STRAIGHT FLUSHES.
1 Royal Straight Flush
2 Straight Flush
3 Four of a Kind


ポーカー役の優劣
NOT GOING WITH THOSE AS YOUR FIRST 8 HANDS,
SO OBVIOUSLY THE FIRST 8 HANDS YOU'LL BE MAKING ARE THE ROYAL STRAIGHT FLUSHES AND STRAIGHT FLUSHES.
IS JUST COMPLETELY RETARDED.
AFTER ALL...


SO TO NOT DO THE SAME WOULD MEAN 4 INEVITABLE LOSSES!
THE OPPONENT WILL BE DEFINITELY MAKING THOSE HANDS,


IN THE END, THE ONLY POSSIBLE 10 HANDS YOU CAN MAKE..
THAT'S WHY,
AHH!
THAT'S 4 GAMES OUT OF 10 GONE RIGHT OUT OF THE WINDOW ALREADY!


Royal Straight Flush
Straight Flush
Four of a Kind
IS THIS AND ONLY THIS!
FOUR ROYAL FLUSHES, FOLLOWED BY FOUR 9-HIGH STRAIGHTS, AND THEN TWO FOUR OF A KINDS USING A 4 AND A 3!

CAN IT, SMARTASS!

E-EVEN I KNEW THAT MUCH AT LEAST!

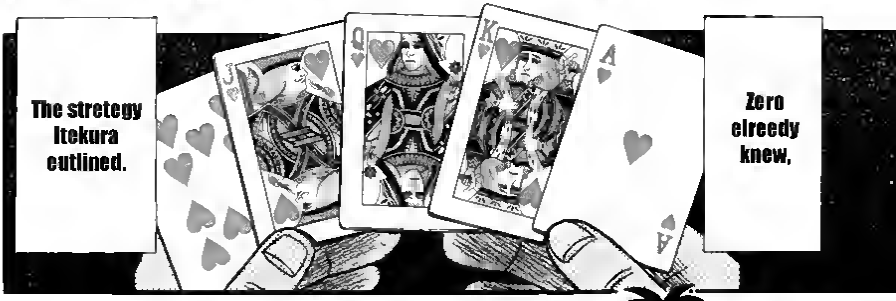
NGH!
UNLIKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE, HE'S NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO HESITATE AND WANDER AROUND LIKE A CLUELESS KID.
I'M SURE ZERO WOULD ALREADY KNOW ALL THIS

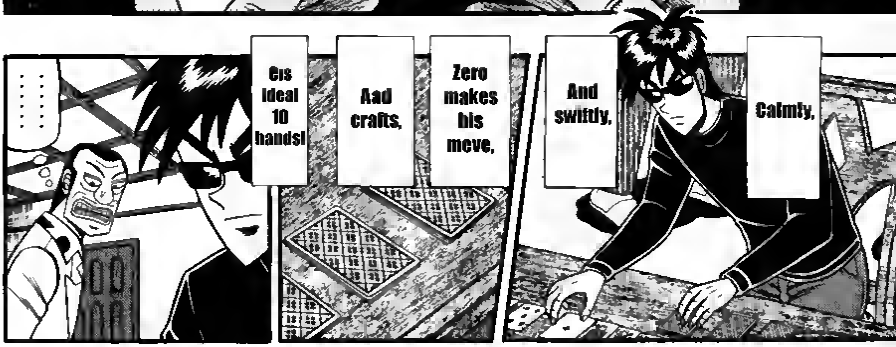
IF YOU WANT TO WIN, THAT IS
PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE AT ALL!

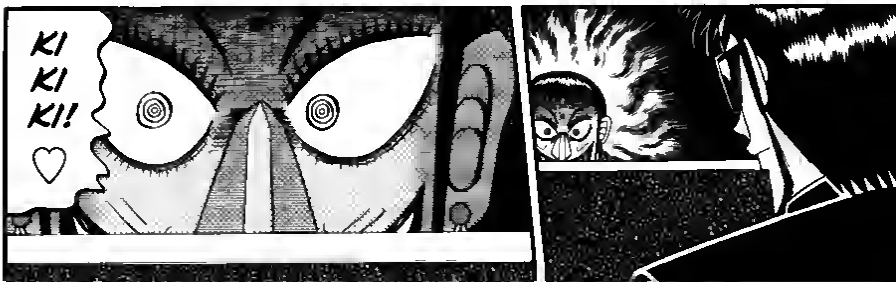
WELL...

AH!
SO EVEN IF YOU TECHNICALLY HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF CHOOSING ANYTHING,

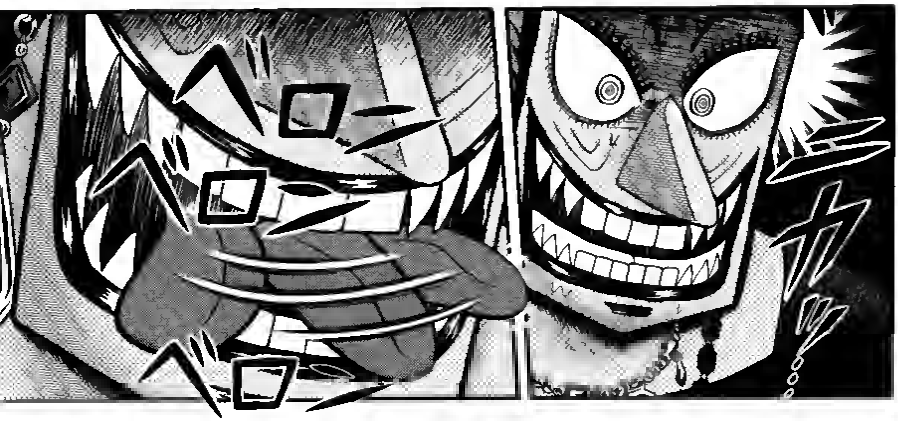
As Itakura said,
I DIDN'T NEED YOU TELLING ME!

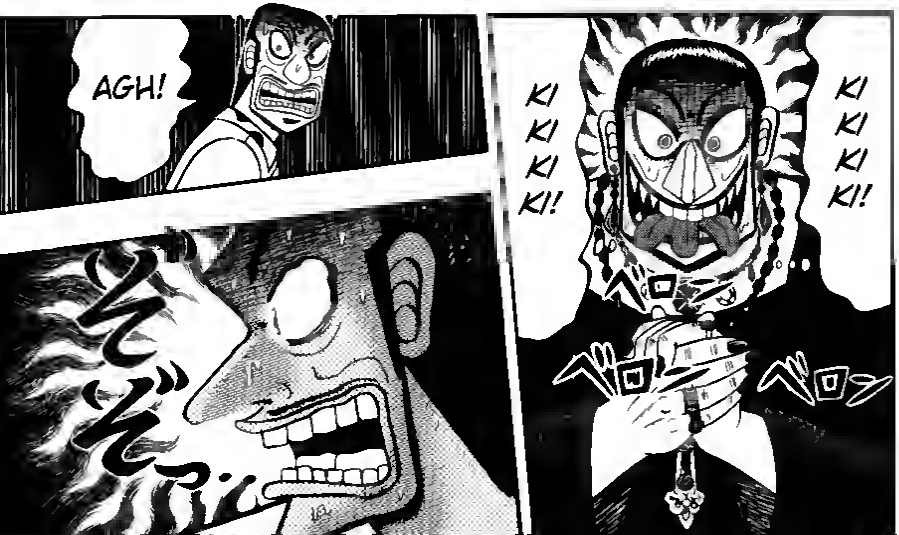

The strategy Itakura outlined.
Zero already knew,


Is Ideal 10 hands!
And crafts,
Zero makes his move,
And swiftly,
Calmly,

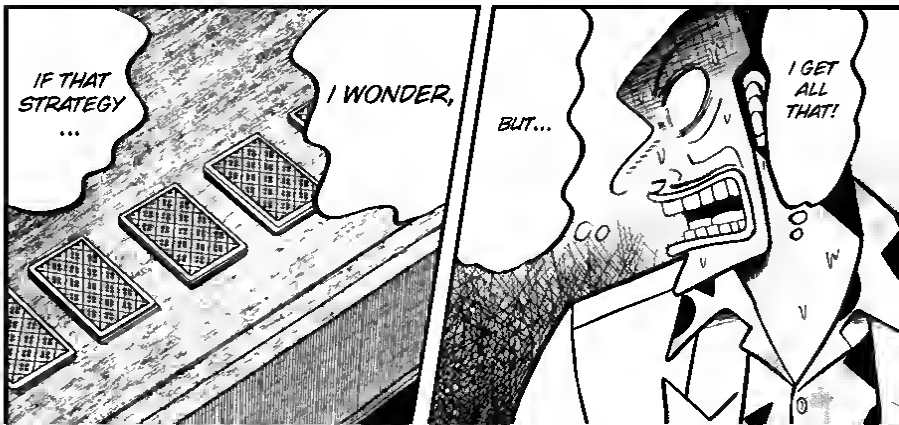

KI KI KI!

HEE...
HEE HEE,


ベロー
ベロン
ベロー
ニカ

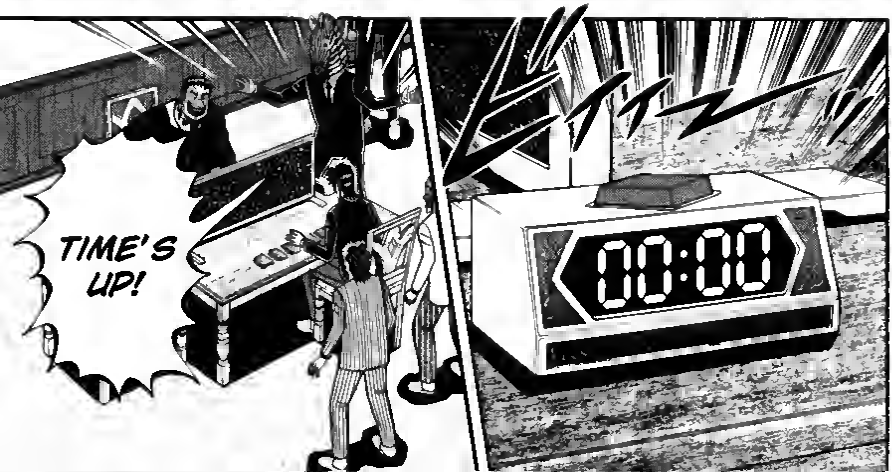

AGH!
KI KI KI KI!
KI KI KI KI!
ベロン
ベロン
そぞぞ

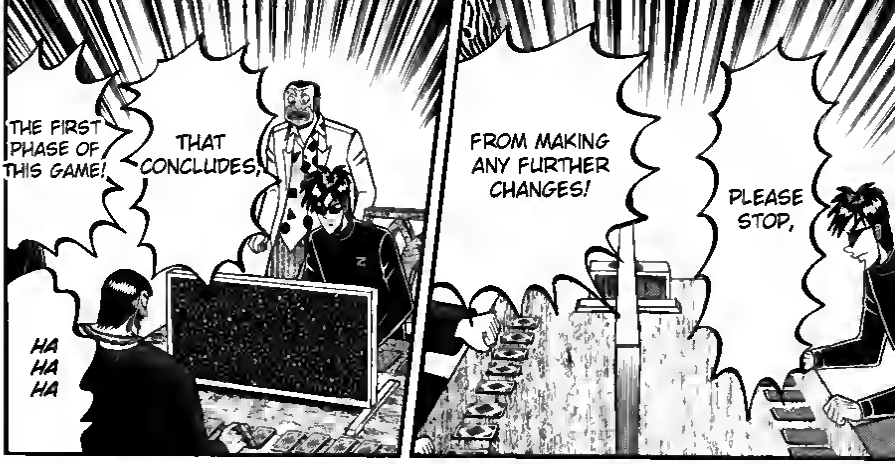
W-
WHA!?
ざわ‥
ざわ‥
IS THAT REALLY,
W-WAIT A SEC...
TRUE ...?
ポーカー
1 ロイヤルストレート
2 ストレート
3
4
I UNDER-STAND,
THE LOGIC BEHIND WHAT ITAKURA SAID AND ALL...

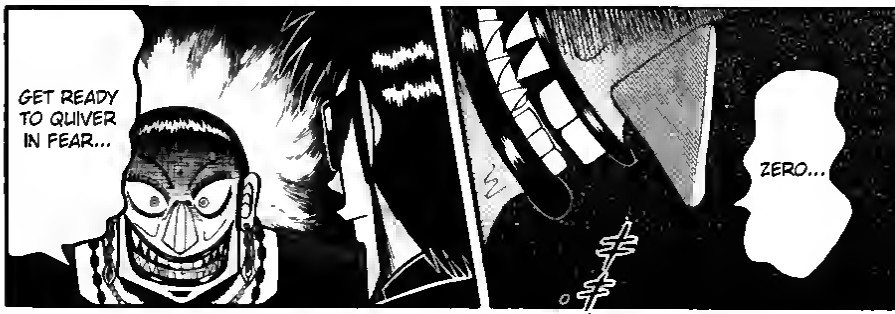

I GET ALL THAT!
BUT...
I WONDER,
IF THAT STRATEGY ...

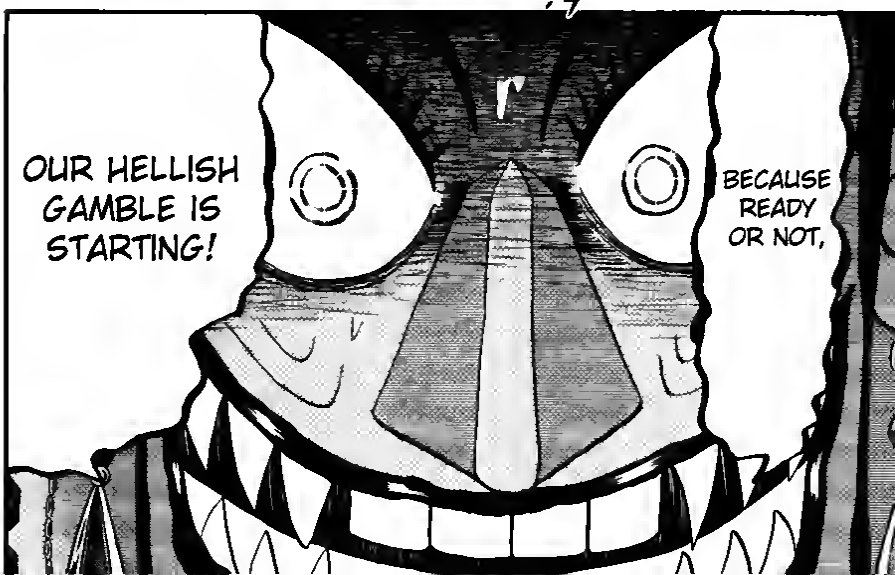
REALLY IS RIGHT...?
ARE THOSE REALLY THE BEST 10 HANDS...?

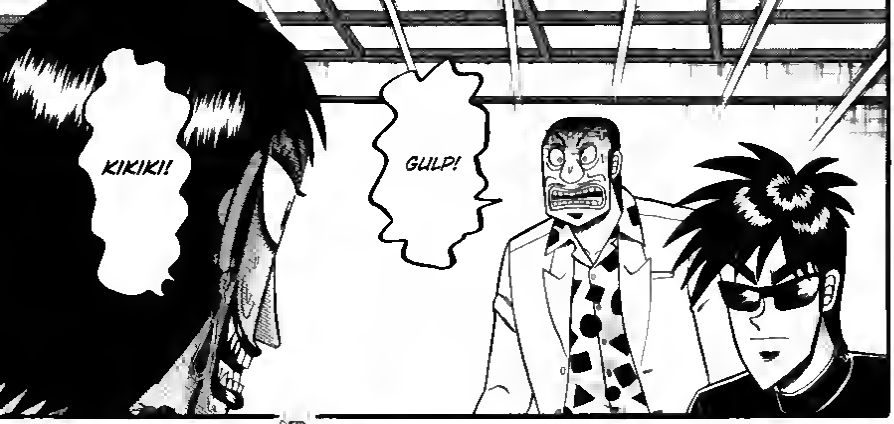
COULD IT BE...
THAT WE'RE ALL ACTUALLY MAKING
A HUGE MISTAKE...!?

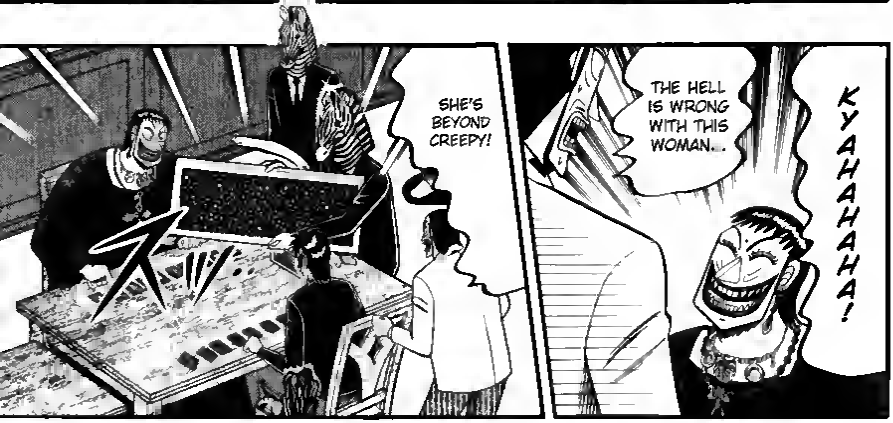

TIME'S UP!
ピィィー
00:00

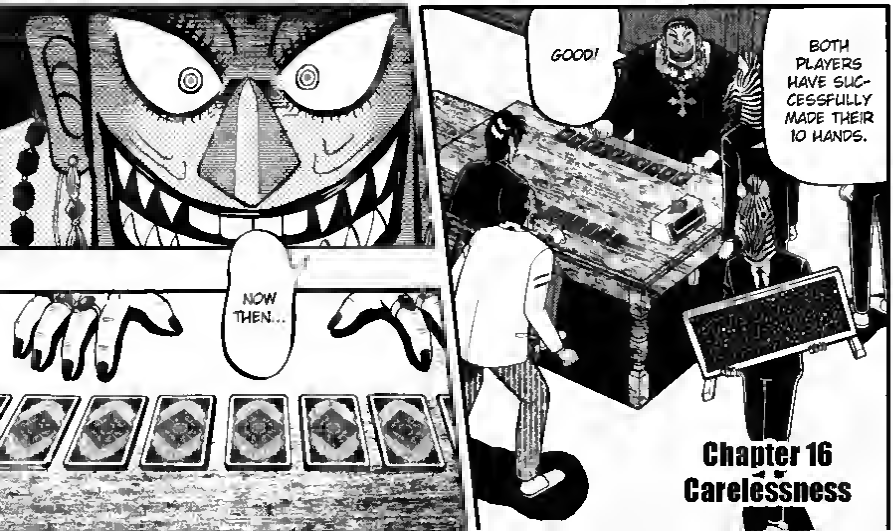

THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS GAME!
THAT CONCLUDES,
HA HA HA
FROM MAKING ANY FURTHER CHANGES!
PLEASE STOP,


GET READY TO QUIVER IN FEAR...
ZERO...


OUR HELLISH GAMBLE IS STARTING!
BECAUSE READY OR NOT,


KIKIKI!
GULP!


SHE'S BEYOND CREEPY!
THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THIS WOMAN...
KYAHAHAHA!


NOW THEN...
GOOD!
BOTH PLAYERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MADE THEIR 10 HANDS.
Chapter 16
Carelessness

W-WHA?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
STAND UP, ZERO.

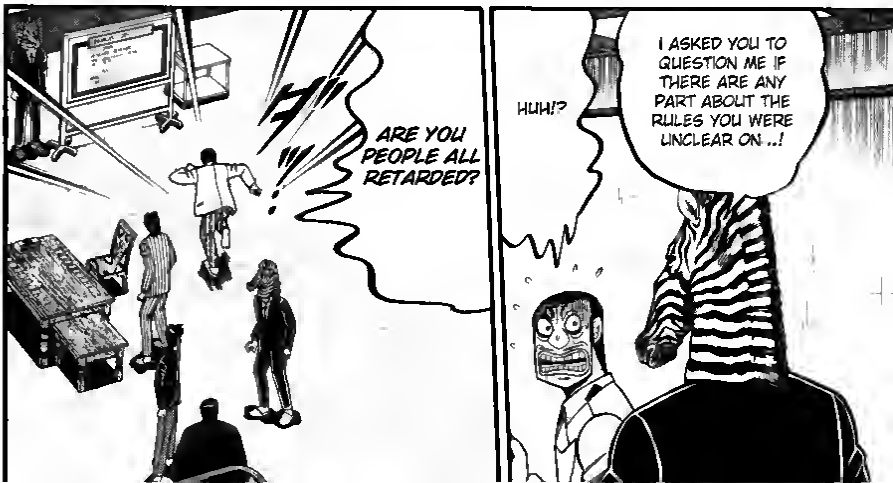
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
WHA...
HUH?
THIS WAY.
AS STATED BY THE HOUSE RULES...
THERE WILL BE A..
BEFORE THE MATCH,
HUH?

WHAT IN THE WORLD?
安売りセール
OH?
THE HELL IS THIS SHOPPING NONSENSE?
DO YOU NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT SHOPPING IS?
Let's Get Shopping!
Max. 3 per customer!
大売出し
ATTACK FIRST
WINDOW
SMALL WINDOW
ON SALE!
BARGAIN PRICES!
GREAT DEALS!
SHOPPING TIME!

SHOPPING TIME'S NO DIFFERENT!
TO GO SHOPPING IS TO BUY THINGS YOU WANT!
YOU GET TO BUY SPECIAL RIGHTS TO GIVE YOU THE BETTER EDGE FOR THE GAME!
IT'S WHAT MAKES 100 CARD POKER UNIQUE!
I SHOULD ASK YOU THE SAME!
ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR MIND!?

JUST WHY ON EARTH SHOULD I,
THE RICH,
BEAUTIFUL,
AND TALENTED POKER QUEEN,
HAVE TO PLAY ON EQUAL TERMS,
WITH YOU POOR PEASANTS?
WHA?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT!?
SO IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF COURSE THAT A VIP LIKE ME SHOULD GET PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT...

NOT EVEN ONCE!
YOU NEVER TALKED ABOUT THIS AT ALL!
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU SIRS NEVER ASKED.
B-BUT...
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE WALKED OUT BACK WHEN THE RULES WERE EXPLAINED TO YOU!
AS I CLEARLY STATED AT THE BEGINNING,
WHAT?

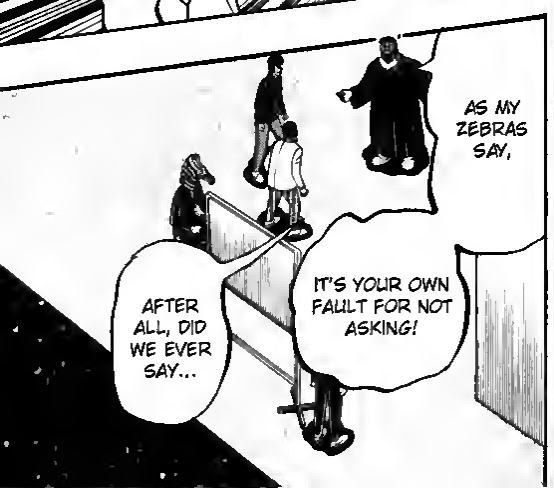

ARE YOU PEOPLE ALL RETARDED?
HUH!?
I ASKED YOU TO QUESTION ME IF THERE ARE ANY PART ABOUT THE RULES YOU WERE UNCLEAR ON ..!

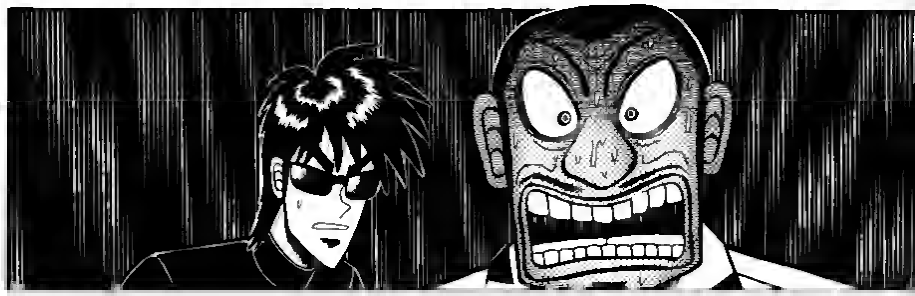
LOOK!
YOUR RULES SAY NOTHING ABOUT A SHOPPING TIME!
NO SHIT WE DIDN'T ASK!
BECAUSE IT WASN'T EVEN WRITTEN IN THE FIRST PLACE!
NOT AT ALL.
IT'S WRITTEN RIGHT THERE
HUH?
WHA!?
RIGHT... HERE!
?
?
IF YOU LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE THE BORDERS HERE,
IT CLEARLY STATES. .

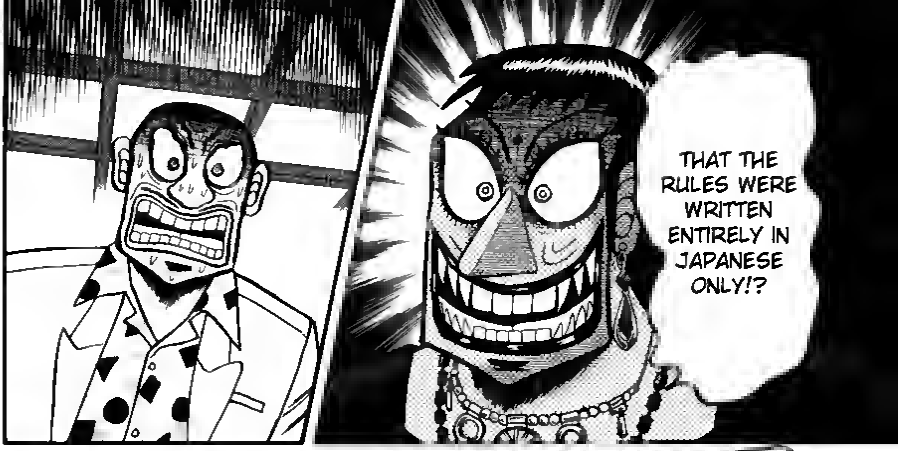
エリザベス・ジュ　ンコ

يسمح بوقت للتسوق قبل المباراة في

Before the match, there is to be a shopping time.



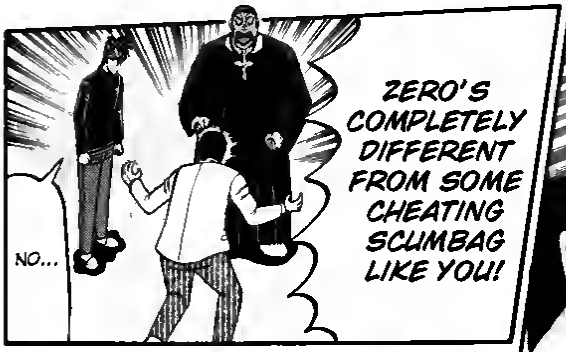



THAT THE RULES WERE WRITTEN ENTIRELY IN JAPANESE ONLY!?

IN THAT CASE, WE'LL BE CONFISCATING ALL YOUR MONEY
ZERO, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CRAP I'M HEARING!
YOU'RE ALL CRAZY!

ALONG THESE BORDERS,
ALSO WRITTEN IN ARABIC,
WHAT?
IS THAT ABANDONING THE MATCH AFTER MAKING YOUR 10 HANDS...

WILL MEAN FORFEITING ALL YOUR MONEY!
WHAT!? THAT'S NOT EVEN FAIR!
OH, ENOUGH WITH THE WHINING AND THE EXCUSES!
ZERO! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THE NATURE OF GAMBLING!
YOU DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN!
AREN'T I RIGHT!?
ISN'T THAT HOW YOU'VE SURVIVED UNTIL NOW!?
WELL!?


NO...
ZERO'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM SOME CHEATING SCUMBAG LIKE YOU!

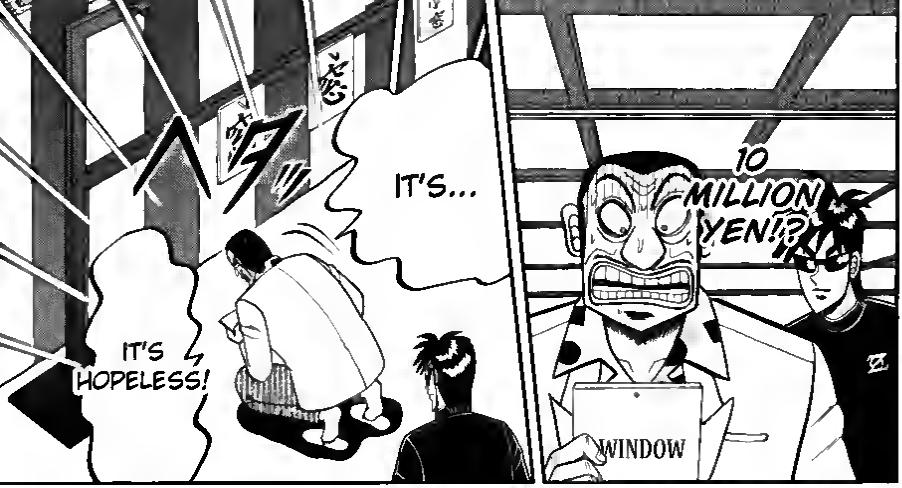
SHE AND I ARE OF THE SAME COIN.
SHUT UP!

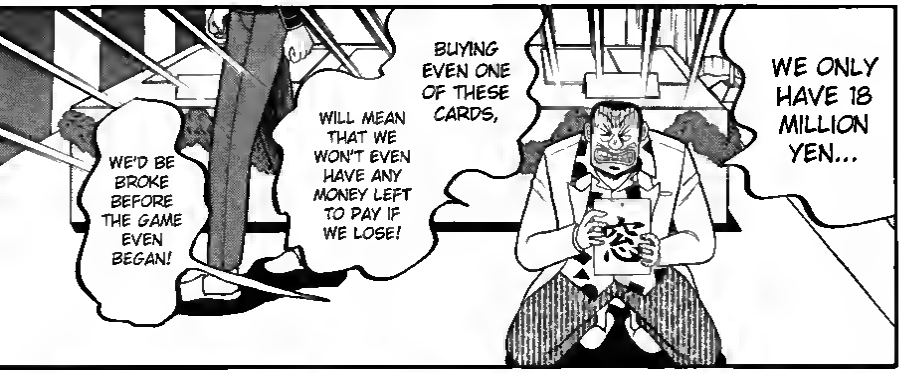
ZERO!
LET'S ACCEPT.
B-BUT...
DON'T WORRY,
I CAN STILL CATCH UP.
I WON'T LET HER GAIN ANY MORE OF AN ADVANTAGE!
ZERO...
KI KI KI!
GOOD!
NOW THEN,
IT'S TIME FOR SOME...

SHOPPING!
大売出し
特価
ルンルン
THERE'S JUST SO MANY CHOICES...
ウキ
ウキ
OOH, WHATEVER SHALL I BUY...?
ウキ

WELL...
I SUPPOSE I'LL BUY THIS FIRST!
ATTACK FIRST
WHEN DID YOUR RULES SAY YOU COULD GET FIRST PICK!?
WELL!?
WE WANT THAT CARD TOO!
HEY!
THE RIGHT TO START THE GAME ON OFFENSE!
OH, PISS OFF!
YOU BUM!
HOHO!
BUT THAT'S THE ONLY ONE ON SALE!

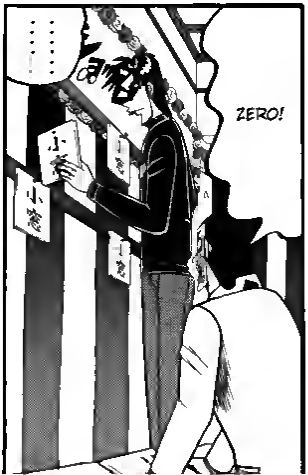
LOOK!
HUH?
ATTACK FIRST
W-WHAT'S WITH THAT PRICE!?
Price ¥20 million
Play on offense for the first 4 turns
AGHHH!
OH, I JUST LOVE ME SOME SHOPPING!
HOW COULD YOU CHARGE THAT MUCH!?
THAT'S WAY TOO EXPENSIVE!
Price: ¥10 million
Force your opponent to reveal where all his cards of a single type (Ace-King) are. The type of card revealed will be randomly decided by roulette.
WINDOW
THAT ALL THESE OTHER CARDS ARE...
DON'T TELL ME,
WAIT...


IT'S...
IT'S HOPELESS!
10 MILLION YEN!?
WINDOW


WE ONLY HAVE 18 MILLION YEN...
BUYING EVEN ONE OF THESE CARDS,
WILL MEAN THAT WE WON'T EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY LEFT TO PAY IF WE LOSE!
WE'D BE BROKE BEFORE THE GAME EVEN BEGAN!

Ferce your opponent to reveel eny ene cerd ol your cheosing.
Price: ¥5 million
Price 5 million

SMALL WINDOW


ZERO!

SMALL WINDOW
IT'S HIGHWAY ROBBERY!
5 MILLION JUST TO REVEAL ONE CARD!?
EVEN THAT ONE'S EXPENSIVE!
SON OF A BITCH!
WE'RE IN SOME DEEP SHIT NOW!
WHILE WE CAN BARELY AFFORD TO BUY THE CHEAPEST ONE!
OUR OPPONENT IS RICH AS HELL AND CAN BUY WHATEVER SHE WANTS,
SMALL WINDOW
ARE WAY TOO DIFFERENT!
OUR STARTING POSI-TIONS,
TRANSLATED BY HOX

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賭博覇王伝
ゼロ
ギャン鬼編
零
ZERO
どよ？♡
全歯を賭けた
100枚ポーカー、ついに開始!!
不利な立場に立たされた零に、
秘策はあるのか!?
第3巻、2012年3月発売予定!!!!!